

The Belman of London.

BRINGING TOLIGHT THE MOST NOTORIOUS

*Villanies that are now practised in the
Kingdome.*

Profitable for Gentlemen, Lawyers, Merchants, Cittizens, Farmers, Masters of Houtholdes, and all sorts of seruants to mark, and delightfull for all men to reade.

Lege, Perlege, Relege.

The third impression. with new aditions.



Printed at London for Nathaniell Butter.

1608.

fine copy 5/5/0

£0. 11

A curious picture of the town
View of the Age &c. This copy
was purchased by the Duke
of Marlborough in Col. Stanley's
sale for 8 £

C.

✓

*





*A Table of the principall matters contain-
ed in this Booke.*

A Discouerie of all the idle Vagabonds in England: their conditions: their Lawes amongst themselves: their degrees and orders: their meetings and their maners of li-
uing, both men and women.

A discouerie of certaine secret villanies, which borrowe to
themselves the names of Lawes.

A S

Cheating Law.	Bernards Lawe.
Vincent's Law.	The black Art.
Courbing Law.	Prigging Law.
Lifting Law.	High Law.
Sacking Law.	Figging Law.
Five lumps at Leap-frog.	

The



The poore **BELMAN** of London,
To all those that either by office are sworne
 to punish, or in their owne loue to vertue, wish
 to haue the disorders of a state amended, humbly
 dedicateth these his discoueries.



To your *Gates* the *Belman* of London beateth, to awaken your eies, to looke back after certaine *Grand* and common abuses, that daily walke by you, keeping aloofe (in corners) out of the reach of Law. It must be the hand of your authoritie that must fetch in these *Rebels* to the weale-publike, and your arme that must strike them: I chuse you as Patrons, (not to my booke) but to defend me from those Monsters, whose dennes I breake open in this my discouery. More dangerous they are to a State, then a *Ciuill warre*, because their vilanies are more subtile and more enduring. The *Belman* notwithstanding hath plaide the *Owle* (who is the *Embleme* of wisdom) for sleeping in the day, as abhorring to behold the impieties of this last and worst age of the world: In the night therefore hath hee stolne soorth, and with the help of his *Lanthorne* and *Candle* (by which is figured circumspection) hath he brought to light, that broode of mischiefe, which is ingendered in the wombe of darkenesse. A monstrous birth is it, and therefore worthy to be looked at: from monstrous parents doth it proceede, and therefore the sight of it to be fearefull. But of such rare temper are your

DUPLICATE A 2 eyes,

eyes, that (as if they had tunne-beames in them) they are able to exhale vp all these contagious breaths which poyson a kingdome, & so to speise them into thin aire, that they shall vtterly vanish, and be no more offensive. In this blacke shore of mischief haue I sayled along, and bene a faithfull discouerer of all the creekes, rockes, gulfes and quick-sands, in and about it: Be you therefore as second aduenturers, and furnish men armed with Iustice, and well furnished in all points, with a desire to conquer these Sauages, & send them to set strong and fearfull footing amongst them. It shall be honour to your selues, and them, and a rich benefit to the *Republik* wherein you liue. For my own part I vow, that as I dedicate these my labours to your hands, so will I deuote my life to the safety of my Countrie, in defending her from these Serpents: I will waste out mine eies with my candles, and watch from midnight till the rising vp of the morning: my *Bell* shall euer be ringing, and that faithfull seruant of mine (the Dog that follows me) be euer biting of these wilde beastes, till they be all driuen into one heard, and so hunted into the toiles of the *Lawe*. Accept therefore of this *Night-prize* (my *Graue* and worthy *Patrons*) drawne rudely, and presented bouldly, because I know the colours layde vppon it, are not counterfeite as those of borrowd beauties: but this is a picture of *Villanie*, drawen to the life, of purpose that life might be drawne from it. None can be offended with it but such as are guiltie to themselves, that they are such as are inrold in this Muster booke, for whose anger, or whose stab, I care not. At no mans bosome doe I particularly strike, but onely at the body of *Vice* in Generall: if my manner of *Fight* (with these dangerous Masters of the *Ignoblest Science* that euer was in any kingdome) do get but plaule, the *Belman* shall shortly bid you to another *Prize*, where you shall see him play at other kinde of weapons.

Deuoted night and day yours,
The Belman of London.



THE
Bel-man of London.

Discoueing the most notable villanies now in
the Kingdome.

The world at the first was made of no-
thing and shal a the last bee consumed to
nothing. The fashion of it is round, for as
a Circle is the most perfit figure, So this,
the rarest and most absolute frame, that e-
uer the Creator made. It was indeed
(excepting that which was like himselse)
his Gaister peice.

In this great world did he place a little world (and as the lesser
wheeles in a clock being set a going, giue motion to the greatest,
and serue them as guides) So that little world (called man) doth
by his Art, office and power, controule the greater: yet is there
such a harmony in both their motions, that though in quantitie
they differ farre, they agree in qualitie: and though the one was
made somewhat before the other, yet are they so like, that they
seeme to be instruments belonging to one Engine. For man is
made up by the mixture of foure complexions, Bloud, Flegme,
Choller, and Melancholly. The world is a ball made up of foure
Elements, Water, Ayre, Earth, and Fire, yea these very Ele-
ments haue likewise parts in him. The world is circular, So is
man, for let him stand byright and extend forth his armes to the
length, A line drawen from his nauell to all the vtmost limits of
his body, makes his body Orbiculer. And as man hath foure

The Belman

ages, Infancie, Child-hood, Youth and olde age: so hath the world, in which foure measures of time are filled out, the Kinges and fallings, the growings vp and the witherings both of the one and the other.

Description of
the 4 ages of
the world.

Golden age.

The infancy of the world was the golden age (not so called because men had at that time more golde then they haue now, (for not to deceiue you, there was (then) not a peece of golde; stirring) but as this sacred mettall is the purest that the earth can bring forth, so the golden age was the best of all the foure and the most blessed: for then all the earth was but one garden, where (without planting) grew all sorts of trees, which (without grafting) carried all sortes of fruites: the ground was not wrinkled with furrowes, for there were then no Plough-men to misuse her beauty: the Sea was not rugged, for there were then no Ships to buse her body: there were no countries, for there were no Kinges: all the world was but one Land, and all the people in it but one Nation: who knew not how to obey any, because none amongst them had a desire to commaund: their houses were but shadowy coverings of trees, & their stateliest buildings were grauen bowes, Justice in those daies had eyes, and Pitie eates, for none could complain of wrong and not be relieved, nor any crie out for want, who were not satisfied: Oppression was either then not borne, or if there were in the world she had no handes to strike, or if shee did strike, the blowes were no other then such as when with a sword wee cut the water, they did no harme. The Law (in this golden time) got no golde: there were neither Counsellors to pleade, nor Attorneys to plodde vp and downe: the name of a Fee-taking was not knowne: there were no Clyents, and therefore no Courts kept, neither Hearme nor Vacations: what a merrie world was this? The frozen nailes of winter, nor the pestilent scorching breath of Summer did not then destroy the fruites of the earth: there was no Autumne, for there was no yeare; the whole yeare was but one month, and that month was euer, nay, it was a continuall Spring, so that man (the Emperour of earth) grew proud, insolent, and saucie: the fulnesse of this happinesse making him swell into such a disdain of the gods, that hee preferred the viceroyship of this lower kingdom (bestowed vpon him by them) and
the

of London.

the pleasures vppon which he surfeted here, before those felicities which they enjoy'd aboue. Whersuppon as men in these dayes, so did the Gods in those, hould vp to themselves that Golden age: they tooke it away from mortals, because they were vnworthy of it, And on a sudden changed it into white money, so that the Golden age became the Silver.

As those two mettalls (of Gold and Silver) are in degrees of basenes one to another, So were those two ages in degrees of Badnes. The Silver age was worse then the former: the change of mettalls brought in the change of maners: for now men plucked feathers from the winges of Ambition, and with those plumes laboured to flie one aboue another: their Braines now wrought day and night how to frame tooles to cut downe trees, of those trees to build houses, of those houses to set vp Citties, of those Citties to raise Kingdomes, and from those Kingdomes to deriue souerainties. In this Silver Cradle of the world, Arts were bozne, and Trades put to nurse Time hauing now got silver haire on his head (but as yet it was not balde) provided himselfe of a sickle and a glasse full of sand: with the one did he teach men how to diuide the Seasons, into quarters, moneths, weekes, dayes and houres: with the other, how to cutte downe Coyne: For foure Princes did now by course rule the year: two of them milde, two of them cruell: two of them were liberall, full of mirth, full of matellicie, full of beautie: the other two were hard fauour'd, dogged, addicted to melancholly, to diseases, to hate mankinde, to hurt the earth, and to rob both of all, that the former two had giuen to them. This Silver-age of the worlde, was the worlde's Childehood, and therefore like a child it grew wayward and inconstant: It was apt to fall out, and soone to be pleased: as you may see the whelps of Lions wanton at first and ready to playe euen with infants, and not to harne them, with whome after wardes armed men dare not encounter, So in this second playe vppon the great Theater of the worlde, men shewed like shepheards (Simple) they had power to doe hurt, but not a will to doe it: a care they had more to prowide for themselves, then to iniurie others. If this Silver theed of mans life had still bene spun, man had liued in a reasonable happines, But the Fates (enuious euer of his good) cut it off:

The silver age

4. seasons of
the yeare.

The Belman

The Brazen
Age.

it off: and at the last, instead of this silver maske which the world wore, did she (being turned strumpet) put on a Brazen-face. Having that on, she grew impudent, lascivious and lustfull, yet was she not altogether past modestie, but fell into the company of Vices, and so at length into a loue of them, being rather deceived with the goodly shapes they carryed, then delighted with their doings.

This was the lustie age of the world, when men knewe their strengthes, and had desire to trie them: their veines were full of blood, and itched to be let out: but warre was not yet begotten, and as in a ciuill kingdom. When Sedition is denisng plots how to set the state in an vpproze, shee looketh wildely, walkes distractedly, and speakes ambiguously: her verie face seruing as a Calender, wherein men may reade what stormes shall folowe, the time when they shall fall, or how, or where, is not set down. So at this brazen & thid roūd table of the world (who in her bosom was hatching vs countries) did men sit with countenances, wherein were ingrauen the pictures of troubled thoughts, which tolde that mischiefes were apt to breede there, though to be borne in another Age. The windes did now but begin to shake the earth: the shipwracke which it should suffer, was to be afterwards: so long therefore as the world rested vpon this brazen pillar, men did but whet their swords: there was an Iron gate to be opened, at which Warre should pssue forth, and then was the time to strike.

The Iron age

Quickly therefore was this circle of Blasse broken in peeces, the glasse of this Third age was soone runne out, and in the place of it was the Iron age turned vp, the Iron age is that wherein we liue: it is the olde age of the world that must bring the world to a graue: it is the last of foure, and the worst of foure: it is the basest, yet the proudest. In this Iron bed of Tyme what vnaturall ingenderings, what preposterous birthes haue there bene? Deuotion hath lpen with Hipocrisie, Zeale with Coldnesse, Justice with Partialitie, Valor with Furie, Learning with Pride, Pride with Ambition, Ambition with Treason, and Treason with Murder.

In this bed was Auarice borne, monstrous in shape, and diuulish in conditions: her fingars are hookes, which Murers still are fying

flyng to keepe more sharpe then Taylozs needles. In one hād shee holdes a lime-bush, in the other a net, a company of olde red-nosed fellows (of all trades some) speedding Birdlime continually vpon the one, and with strōg Cordes still peecing by the other. Shee whisper's euerie morning in a Lawyeres eare, what shee saies none knowes, but some thinke shee teaches him his prayers: she goes attired like a Brokers wife, for her apparell is made of seuerall parcells, which by violence she hath tozne frō sundrie backes: Shee feedes vppon golde as the Estridge dooth vppon Iron, and drinks siluer faster downe her crane-like throat than an English Cockatrice doth Hipocras.

With this ill-sauoured hag came enuie into the woylee: they both are twins, and both looke like Starvelings: in bodies they somewhat resemble one another, but differ in mindes, for the one couets to haue all to herselfe, the other cares for nothing: but pines away to the bare bones, with very griefe and madnesse, to see another inioy any thing.

The last of these two furies (Enuie) was begotten by a player, & that makes her so lean: the other by a Dutch Burger, and that makes her haue such a belly. Now was the time (whilst this Pon-milles of mischief were going) for warre to set at the Anuile, whilst swords, Billes, Pole-axes, Partizans, Guns &c. were sozged to destroy mankind: for till this rustie Iron world came vp, there was not an Armozer to be had for loue or money. Presently vpon this, priuate quarels were first pickt, which afterwards burst out into open maine battailes, those battailes haue drawne whole kingdomes into faction, and those factions like so many fyres, haue set the whole world in a combustion, but because Nations were so deuided one from another by the Seas (which lay like barres betweens them) Couetousnes and Ambition laide their handes together, and inuented shippes:

Now was the Reuerend Duke (the King of the Forrest) who had stood so many yeares vnshaken and vndishonoured, laide groueling on the ground: the mountaines that before were glad to be his foot-stooles, and were euen proud when hee stood vpright on their backes, did now send soorth groanes at the report of his fall.

His Waken browes must notwithstanding bee uncrownd:

The Belman

his aged body dismantled of his robes, yea his very heart cleft spitefully in sundry, whilst his strong and tough ribs be puld from his sides, to make a Pageant that shall dance on the Waters.

And not the Oake alone felt the misery of these great strokes, but the tall Firre Tree was compeld likewise to leaue the twigs, whereponndly he had stood so many yeares, and like a Slaue to followe a Saile, which waysoeuer it should lead him. With these wooden Castles (which floated by and downe like so many Townes,) rather like so many little Citties full of People) was the Kingdome of the Waues besieged, her Chyrtal Wallles batterd, and her treasury rifled: The scaly Citizens being terrified with this boldnes of mankind, as hauing neuer seene any creatures but themselues to venture into their dominions, conplained to the monarch of the Deeps, who in reuenge of this presumption, did not onely sticke Rocks in the playnest paths of his Kingdome, to make those intruders stumble at them and so to fall headlong into Hell, But also consulted and conspired with the Windes, to be euer working their ouerthrow.

Neither was the Earth (which neuer before felt bruiſes) free from the blowes and wounds euery of those to whome she gaue nourishment.

The World being all turnd thus to Yron, mens hearts were made of the same mettall, and like unnaturall children misused the Mother of vs all, mangling her bosome, cutting open her veines, and ripping by her very bowels, compelling her not onely to giue them common foode to sustaine them, and fruits and flowers to satiffie their lust and pleasures, But thinking that the Golden and siluer troldes were hid in her entrails, euen amongst those do they barbarously rake to finde riches: For this cause the Earth that at the beginning was vnto vs as a Mother, shewes herselfe now as a stepdame, her breasts out of which flowed (once) nothing but milk and honie to nourish vs, swelleth now with rank popson to destroy vs.

But (alas) these moales are but small warts on the cheekes of this Yron World, the great blemishes that make it seeme ugly are not yet discovered.

Entring therefore into a contemplation of y changes of Time,
how

of London

how all things that are vnder the Moone are as variable as her
lookes are: how Goodnes growes crooked, and hath almost lost
her shape: how Vertue goes poorly and is not regarded: how
Villany tettes itself like, and like a God adorne: And when I con-
sider how all pleasures of this life are but as Childes dreames,
how all the glories of the world are but artificiall fire-works
that keepe a blazing for a time, and yet dye in stinking smoakes:
and how all the labours of man are like the toyling of the winds,
which serue to cast vp heaps of dust, that in the end are not worth
the gathering. Then, euen then do I grow weary of my selfe:
then am I neither in loue with the beautie of the Sunne, neither
stand I gazing at the dauncing of the flackes: I neither wonder
at the stately measures of the cloudes, the nimble galliards of the
Water, nor the wanton trappings of the winde, nor am delighted
when the earth dresses vp her head with flowers, I wish my selfe
a Beast, because men are so bad: that Beastes do excell them in
goodnes, & abhor all company, because the best is but tedious, the
worst loathsome, both are the destroyers of time, and both must
be maintained with cost.

Since then, that in the Noblest streames there are such
Whirlpookes to swallow vs vp, such rockes that threaten
daunger (if not Ship-wracke,) and such Quicke-sands to
make vs sinke: who would not willingly take downe all the
sailes of his ambition, and cast anchor on a safe and retired
shore, which is to be found in no place, if not in the Countrey:
O blessed life! pattern of that which our first Parents ledde,
the state of Kinges (now) being but a flatterie to that of
theirs.

The praise of
the countrey
1c.

O schole of contemplation! O thou picture of the whole world,
drawn in a little compasse! O thou Prospective glasse, in whome
we may behold vpon earth, all the frame and wonders of beaual
How happy (how thire happy) is he that not playing with his
wings in the Golden flames of the Court, nor setting his foote
into the busie throngs of the Cittie, nor running vp and downe
in the intricate mazes of the Law, can be content in the winter
to sit by a country fire, and in the sommer to lay his head on the
greene pillows of the earth, where his sleepe shall be soft sun-
bers,

The Belman

bers, and his wakings pleasant as golden dreames. Hast thou a desire to rule, get vp to the mountaines, and thou shalt see the greatest trees stand trembling before thee to doe thee reuerence, those maist thou call thy Nobles: thou shalt haue ranckes of Wakes on each side of thee, which thou maist call thy Guard: thou shalt see willowes bending at euerie blast, whome thou maist call thy flatterers: thou shalt see vallies humbled at thy feete, whome thou maist tearme thy slaues. Wouldst thou beholde battailes: step into the feldes, there shalt thou see excellent combats betweene the standing Cozne and the Windes. Art thou a tyrant and delightest in the fall of Great ones: must-er then thy haruesters together, and dowe with those proud Summer Lordes, when they are at the highest. Wouldst thou haue Subsidies paid thee: the Plow sends thee in Cozne, the Scedow giues thee her pasture, the Trees pay custome with their fruit, the Ox bestowes vpon thee his labour, the Shep his wooll. Dost thou call for musick: No prince in the world keepe more skilful musicians: the Birds are thy consort, and the wind instruments they play vpon, yeeld ten thousand tunes. Art thou addicted to studdie, Heauen is thy Lybrarie, the Sonne, Moone and Stars are thy Bookes, and teach thee Astronomy: By obseruing them, thou makest Almanackes to thy self, that serue for all seasons. That great Volume is thine Ephemerides, out of which thou maist calculate the predictions of times to followe: yea, in the verie clouds are written lessons of Diuinitie for thee, to instruct thee in wisdom: the turning ouer their leaues, teach thee the variations of seasons, and how to dispose thy businesse for all weathers. If the practise of Philicke delight thee, what Aphorismes can all the Doctours in the world set downe more certaine: what rules for good dyet can they draw out more singular: what medicines for health can they compound more re-
fratue: what vertues can all their extracted Quintessences instill into our bodies more soneraign, than those which the earth of her owne bountie bestowes for our preservation, and whose working powers are dayly experimented in beastes for our example: & you plants of the feldes, and you flowers of the garden (natures Apothecaries, & Earths Chirurgians!) your stalkes
are

of London.

are slender, yet you your selues are the chiefest pillars that uphold mans life: what clearnes doth the sight receiue onely in beholding you? what comfort does the Sence of smelling finde onely in your Sanoors: and how many that haue had halfe their bodies in their graues, haue bene brought backe againe onely by your sacred Iuces: Who therefore would not consume his youth in the company of these creatures, that haue power in them to keep off olde age longer then it would, or when old age doth come, are able to giue it the liuelihood and vigour of youth? who would not rather sit at the foote of a hill tending a flock of sheepe, then at the helme of Authority controuling the stubborn and unruly multitude? Better it is in the solitarie woods, and in the wilde fieldes, to be a man among beastes then in the midst of a peopled Citie, to be a beast among men. In the homely village art thou moze safe, then in a fortified Castle: the stings of Enuy, or the Bullets of Treason, are neuer shot through those thin walles: Sound healths are drunke out of the wholesome wooden dish, when the cup of golde boyles ouer with poison. The countrie cottage is neither battred downe with Cannon in time of warre, nor pestred with clamorous suits in time of peace. The fall of Cedars that tumble from the tops of Kingdomes, the Ruine of great houses, that bury families in their ouerthrowe, and the noise of Shipwracks, that beget euen strikes in the hearts of Citties, neuer send their terrozs thither: that place stands as safe from the shocke of such violent stormes, as the Bay-tree does from lightning.

The admiration of these beuities made me so enamoured, and so really in loue with the inherito: of them, that the flames of my affection were (in their burning) onely carried thither. So that in stead of paved streetes, I trod the unbeaten pathes of the fields, the rankes of the trees were to me as great buildings, Lambes and Shipping Kids, were as my merry companions, the cleare fountaine as my cups of wine, rootes and hearbes as the table of an Ordinarie, the Dialogues of birds as the Decanes of a play, and the open emptie medowes as the proud and populous Cittie. Thus did I wish to liue, thus to dye: and being wandred long (like a Timonist) hating men because they

The Bel-man

dishonoured their creation . At length fortuneled me by the hand into a place so curiouslie built by nature, as if it had beene the Pallace where shee purposed none should lie but her selfe: It was a Grove set thicke with Trees, which grew in such order, that they made a perfect circle , inso much that I stood in feare, it was kept by fayries, and that I was brought into it by enchantment. The branches of the Trees (like so many hands) reached ouer one to another, and in their embracements held so fast together, that their boughes made a goodly Greene rooſe, which being touched by the winde, it was pleasure to behold so large a feeling to mooue: vpon euerie branch sat a consort of singers, so that euerie Tree thewed like a Musick room. The floore of this summer-house was paved al ouer with yelow ſilds flowers, and with white and red dazies, vpon which the Sun calling but a wanton eye, you would haue sworn the one had bene nailles of Golde, the other suddes of enamelled Silver. Amazed I was when I did but looke into this little Paradise, and afraid to enter, doubting whether it were some hallowed ground or no, for I could finde no path that byreared me to it: neither the foot of any man, nor the hoofe of any beast had beaten downe the Grasse: for the blades of it stood so hie and so euen, as if their lengthes had beene giuen them by one measure. The melodye which the birds made, and the varieties of all sorts of fruites which the trees promised, with the prettie and harmelesse murmuring of a shallow Stream, running in windings through the middelt of it (whose noise went like a chime of Bells, charming the eyes to sleepe) put me in minde of that Garden whereof our great Grandfire was the keeper, I cren wept for sorrow to thinke he should be so foolish, as to be diuinen from a place of such happiness, I blamed him in my mind for leauing such a president behind him, because by his fall we lost his felicitie, and by his frailtie all men are now apt to vndoe themselves and their posterity throggh the inticements of women.

Into this Grove therefore at last I did venter, resolving to make it the Temple where my thoughts shold spend themselves in fruitfull contemplatian: I purposed to deuide the day into acts, as if the ground had beene a stage, and that the life
which

which there I ment to leade, should haue bene but as a play. Some of my houres should haue runne out in Speculation of the admirall workmanthippe of Heauen and of the orders which the Celestiall bodies are gouerned by: Some of my houres should haue carried me vp and dolone the earth, and haue shewen vnto me the qualities and propoztions of the creatures that breede vpon it: at another time would I haue written Satyres against the impietie of the world: At another I would haue chaunted Roundelayes, in honour of the Countrie life. The rest of my time should haue fetched in provision for my bodie. These were appointed to be my Aes in this goodly Theater: the Musicke betwene were the Singers of the Wood, the audience such as Orpheus plaide vnto, and those were Mountaines and Trees who (vnlesse the whispering windes troubled them with their noise) would haue bene veris attentue. But whilst I setting forth to runne this Goale, beholde, casting vp mine eye, I slipped a farre off certaine cloudes of smoake, whose vapors ascended vp so blacke and thicke into the Element, as if the sighes of hell had burst the bowels of the earth, and were flying vp toward heauen to pull dolowne more vengeance.

Before I saw this, I beleueed that this place had bene free from all resort, desirous therefore to learne who they were that neighbored so nie and in a solitarie wood, (that stood so far from inhabites buildings) I slept forward & came to the place which (what by nature and what by Art) was so fenced about with Trees, quick set hedges and bushes, which were growne so high (that but for the smoke) it was not possible to imagin how a house could there be builded, there was but one path leading to it, which (after much searching & many turnings) being found, boldly went: I on, & arrived at a homely Cottage: the vertie doore of it put me in minde of that peerelesse of good Baucis & Philammon, where a God was a guest, for it was so lowe, that euen a dwarf might haue seemed a tall man, entring into it, so much would it haue made him keepe. This house stood not like Great mens places, alwaies shut, but wide open, as if bounty had bene the porter, & being within, it seemed hospirality dwelt there, and had
giuen

The Bel-man

giuen you welcome. For there was a Table ready couered, with faire linnen, nut-browne round trenchers lay in good order, with bread and salt, keeping their state in the middle of the board. The roome it selfe was not sumptuous but haniome, of indifferent bignes, but not very large: the windowes were spread with hearbs, the chimney drest vp with greene boughes, and the floore strewed with bulrushes, as if some lasse were that mozne to be married: but neither saw I any bride or bride-groome, nor heard I any musicke, onely the next roome (which was the kitchen, and into which I went) was there as much stirring, as commonly is to be seene in a Booth, vppon the first day of the opening of a Faire. Some late turning of spits, and the place being all smoky, made me thinke on hell, for the ioynts of meat lay as if they had bene broyling in the infernall fier: the turne spits (who were poore tottered greasie fellowes) looking like so many hee-denills, Some were basting and seemed like fiends poisoning scalding oyle vppon the damned: others were myncing of pyemeat, and shewed like hangmen cutting vp of quarters, whilst another whose eies glowed with the heat of the fier, stood poaking in at the mouth of an Ouen, torturing soules as it were in the furnace of Lucifer. There was such chopping of hearbes, such tossing of Ladles, such plucking of Geese, such scalding of Pigges, such singing, such scolding, such laughing, such swearing, and such running too and fro, as if Pluto had that day bidden all his friendes to a feast, and that these had bene the Cookes that drest the dinner.

At the last espying an old nimble-tongd beldam who seemed to haue the commaund of the place, to her I stepped, and in faire featnes requested to knowe the name of the dwelling, why this great chere was prouided, and who were the Guests, for as yet I saw no bodie but this Baud of the Blacke Guard. Instead of her tongue, her eies (that had started backe a good way into her head, as if they durst not looke out) made me an answer. I perceived by her verie countenance, that I was not welcome, which afterward she confirmed in words, telling me the place was not for me, the Feast was for others, and that I must instantly be gone, for that a strange kinde of people were that day to bee
merrie

of London.

merry there. So Rhetorick that I could vse, had power to win her to discouer who these Guests should be, till at the length a Wife preuailing more then a Parlee, she tolde me I should be a Spectator of the Comedy in hand, and in a priuate gallerie behold all the Actors, vppon condition I would sit quietly and say nothing. And for that purpose was I conuained into an vpper loft, where (vnseene) I might (through a wooden Lattice that had the prospect of the dining roome) both see and here all that was to be done or spoken.

Where lay I like a Scout to discouer the comming of the expected enimie, who was to set vppon this good chearc, and to batter downe the walles of hot Pies and Pasties. Mine eyes euen aaked with staring towarde the doore, to spie when these States should enter, ducking downe with their heads like so many Geese going into a Barne. At length (with bagge and baggage) they came dropping in one after another, sometimes thre in a company, sometimes fve, now more, now lesse, till in the end the great Hall was so full that it swarmed with them. I know you wonder, and haue longing thoughts to know what Generation this is, that liued in this hospitable familiarity: but let me tel you they are a people for whom the world cares not, neither care they for the world: they are all freemen, yet scarce to liue in Cities: great trauellers they are and yet neuer from home, poore they are, and yet haue their dyet from the best mens tables: They are neyther olde Seruingmen (for all I say they are poore) that haue bene courtiers, and are now past carrying of cloake bags: nor yong gallants that haue serued in the low Countreies, (albeit many of them go vppon wooden legs) nor hungry scholars, that all their lite time haue kept a wangling in the scholes, and in the end are glad to teach Children their Horne-bookes: neither are they decayed Poets, whose wits like a foolles Land, holde out but a twelue month, and then they liue ppon the scraps of other mens inuention: no nor players they be, who out of an ambition to weare the best Jerkin (in a Strowting company) or to act great partes, forsake the stately and our more then Romanaine Cittie stages, to trauell vpon the hard hoofe, from village to village for cheese and butter-milk: neither are they any of those terrible noises (with thir bare cloakes) that liue by red lattises and Iuy-bushes, hauing authoritie to thrust into any mans

The Belman

roome, onely speaking but this, Will you haue any musique? Neither are they Cittizens that haue bene blowne by (without Gunpowder) and by that meanes haue bene free of the Grate at Ludgate, some fūe times: no, no, this is a Ging of goodfellowes in to whome there is more brother-hood: this is a Crew that is not the Damned Crew (for they walke in Sattin) but this is the Ragged Regiment: Villaines they are by birth, Varlets by education, Knaues by profession, Beg gars by the statute, and Rogues by act of Parliament. They are the idle dzones of a Countrie, the Caterpillers of a common wealth, and the Egyptian lice of a Kingdome. And albeit that at othertimes their attire was sitting to their trade of liuing, yet now were they all in hanfome cleane linnen, because this was one of their Quarter dinners: for you must vnderstand, that (as after ward I learnt by intelligence) they holde these soleimne meetings in foure severall seasons of the yeare at least, and in severall places to auoyde discouerie.

The whole assembly being thus gathered together, One amongst the rest, who tooke vpon him a Seniority ouer the rest, charg'd euery man to answer to his name, to see if the Jury were full: the Bill by which he meant to call them being a double Jug of ale (that had the spirit of Aqua vitæ in it, it smelt so strōg) and that he held in his hand: Another standing by with a toaft, Nutmeg and Ginger, ready to crie Vous auez as they were cald, and all that were in the roome hauing single pots by the eares which like Pistolls were charged to go off so soone as euer they heard their names. This Ceremony being set abroach, an O-yes was made: But he that was Rector Chory (the Captain of the Tatterdemalions) spying one to march vnder his cullozs, that had neuer before serued in those lowlse warres, paused awhile (after he had taken his first draught, to taste the dexteritie of the liquor) and then began (Justice like) to examine this Yonger Brother vpon Interrogatores:

The first question he demaunded, was, if he were skalled to the Rogue or no? the poore Hnngarin answered yes, he was: then was he asked by whom he was skalled, and where, and in what manner of complement it was done? to which question the nouice hauing not so much beggerly knowledge as might make a learned reply, forthwith did the wicked Elder onymaund the young Slaucionians that stood about him, to discurnish him that was

of London.

was so unskilfull in the Rudiments of Rogerie) of his best garment, and to carry it presently to the Bowling Ken (that was to say to the tap-house) and there to patron it for so much strong Ale, as could be ventur'd vpon it. Thus the cheife Rag-a-muffen gaue in charge, the rest obeyed and did so, whilst the other suffered himselfe to be stript, and durst not resist their base authority.

This done, the Grand Signior called for a Gage of Bowse, which belike signified a quart of drinke, for presently a pot of Ale being put into his hand, he made the young Squier kneele downe, and powring the full pot on his pate, vttered these wordes.

I doe stall thee to the Rogue, by vertue of this soueraigne English liquor, so that hence forth it shall be lawfull for thee to Cant (that is to say) to be a Vagabond and beg, and to speake that pedlers French, or that Canting language, which is to be found among none but beggers: With that, the stalled Gentleman rose, all the rest in the roome hanging vpon him for toy, like so many dogs about a Beare, and leaping about him with shoutes like so many mad men.

But a Silence being proclaimed, all were hushed, whilst hee that playde the Maister Deuills part amongst these Hell-hounds, after a thrug or two giuen, thus began to speake to him that was new entred into the damned fraternitie. Brother Begger (quoth he) because thou art yet but a meere fresh-man in our Colledge, I charge thee to hang thine eares to my lips, and to learne the orders of our house, which thou must obserue, vpon paine either to be beaten with our cudgels the next time thou art met, or else to be stript out of any garments that are worth the taking from thee. First therefore (being no better then a plaine ordinarie Rogue, marry in time thou maist rise to more preferment amongst vs) thou art not to wander vp and downe all countries, but to walke onely like an Vnder-keeper of a Forrest, in that quarter which is allotted vnto thee: Thou art likewise to giue way vnto any of vs that haue boare all the offices of the Walllet before thee, and vpon holding vp a finger to auoide any towne or countrie Village, where thou seest wee are foraging to victualle our armie that march along with vs. For (my pooze Villiaco) thou must know, that there are degrees of Superioritie and Inferioritie in our Societie, as there

The Belman

are in the proudest cōpany. We haue amongst vs some eighteene or nineteene seuerall offices for men, and about seauen or eight for women: The cheefest of vs are called Vpright-men (O my deere Sun-burnt-brother, if all those that are the Cheifest men in other companies were Vpright-men too, what good dealing would there be in all occupations? The next are Rufflers: then haue we Anglers, but they sildome catch Fish till they go by westward for Flounders: then are there Rogues (which liuerie thou thy selfe wearest) next are wilde Rogues, then Priggers, then Palliards, then Fraters, then Tome of Bedlams band of mad caps, otherwise called Poore Toms flocke of Wildegeese (whom heere thou seest by his black and blew naked arms to be a man beaten to the world) and those wilde geese or haire-braines are called Abraham-men: in the next Squadron march our braue Whip-iacks, at the taile of them come crawling our counterfeitt Crankes: in another troop are Gabbling Domerers then Curtals follow at their heeles, and they bzing along with them strange Engines, called Irish-toyles: After whome followe the Swigmen, the Iarkmen, the Patricoes, and last the Kinchincoes. These are the totterd Regiments, that make vp our maine armie. The victuallers to the Campe are women, and of those some are Glymerers, some Bawdy-baskets, some Autem-morts: others Walking-Morts: some Doxies, sothers are Dels, the last and least are called Kinchin-morts, with all which Comrades, thou shalt in thy beggerly perregrination, meete, conuerse, and be drunke, and in a short time knowe their natures and roguish conditions without the helpe of a Tutor. At these words the victualls came smoaking into the hall to be set vpon the boord, whereupon the whole swarme squatted downe, being as vnciuill in manners. as vnhanfome in apparell, onely the Vhrightmen and Rufflers had the graine of the board giuen them, and sat at vpper end of the table: the rest took ther trenchers as they happened into their hands, yet so, that euery knaue had his quean close by his side.

The table being thus furnished both with Guests and meate, instead of Grace, euery one drew out a knife, rapt out a round oath, and cried Proface you mad Rogues, and so fell to. They fed more hungerly, then if they had come from the siege of Ierusalem: not a word was heard amongst them for a long time,
onely

of London.

onely their teeth made a noyse, as if so many Mills had bene grinding. Rats going to the assault of a Holland cheese could not moze valiantly lay about them: nay my Lord Maiors Hounds at the dog-house being bidden to the funerall banquet of a dead boyle, could not picke the bones cleaner. At length when the platters began to looke leane, and their bellies grew plumpe, then went their tongues: But such a noyse made they, such a confusion was there of beggerly tales, some gabbling in their Canting language, others in their owne, that the scoulding at ten conduits, and the gossiping of fiftene bake-houses was delicate musicke to it. At the length, drunken healths reeled vp and downe the table, and then it would haue made a Whistian himselfe sick, but to haue looked vpon the waters that came from them. The whole roome sheilded a farre off (but that there was heard such a noyse) like a dutch peece of Drollery, for they sat at table as if they had bene so many Antickes: A Painters prentice could not draw worse faces then they themselves made, besides those which God gaue them: no, nor a Painter himselfe varie a Picture into moze strange and moze ill-fauour'd Gestures, than were to bee seene in the action of their bodies: for some did nothing but weepe and protest loue to their Mortis, another swore daggers and knives to cut the throate of his Doxyc, if he found her tripping: Some slept being drowned so deepe in Ale-draags, that they flauered againe: others sung bawdie songs, another crew deuised curses vpon Iustices of Peace, Head-boroughs and Constables, grinning their teeth so hard together for anger, that the grating of a saw in a stone-cutters yard, when it files in sunder the ribs of marble, makes not a moze horrible noyse. In the end, one who tooke vpon him to be speaker to the whole house (bidding the French and English por on their yelping throates) cried out for silence, telling them it was his turne (according to the Customes of their meeting) to make an Oration in praise of Beggerie, & of those that professe the trade: Whereupon (as if an Owle had happened amongst so many birds) all their eyes did presently stare vpon him: who thus began.

O ye noble hearts, olde weather-beaten fellows, and braue English Spirits, I am to giue you that which all the land knowes you iustly deserue (a Roguish commendation) and you shall haue it, I am to giue Beggars their due praise,

The Belman

yet what neede I doe that, sithence no man (I thinke) will take a ny thing from them that is their due. To be a Begger is to bee a Braue man, because tis now in fashio for verie braue men to Beg: but what a Rogue am I to build vp your honours vpon examples? Doe wee not all come into the world like arrant Beggers, without a rag vpon vs? doe wee not all goe out of the world like Beggers, sauing onely an olde sheete to couer vs? and shall wee not walke vp and downe in the world like Beggers, with olde blankets pind about vs? yes, yes, wee will, roared al the Kennell as though it had beene the Dogs of Paris Garden: Peace cries the Penicillle Orator, and with a Hem proceeds.

What though there bee Statutes to burne vs ith eares for Rogues? to linge vs ith hand for Pilferers? to whip vs at posts for being Beggers, and to shackle our heeles ith Stockes for being idle Vagabonds? what of this? Are there no other Statutes more sharpe then these to punish the rest of the Subjects, that scoyne to bee our companions? what though a prating constable or a red nosed Beadle say to one of vs, sirra Goodman Rogue, if I sernd you twel I should see you whipped through the Towne: Alas, alas, silly Animalles, if all men should haue that which they deserue, wee should doe nothing but play the executioners and tormenters one of an other.

A number of Taylors would be damnd for keeping a Helinder their Shopbord: all the Brokers would make their Wills at Tyborne, if the searching for stolne goods which they haue receiued, should like a plague but once come amongst them: yea if all were serued in their right kinde, two partes of the land should bee whipped at Bridewell for lecherie, and three parts (at least) be set ith stockes for drunkenness. The life of a Begger is the life of a Souldier: he suffers hunger and colde in winter, and heate and thirst in summer he goes lowe, he goes lame, hee's not regarded, hee's not rewarded: heere onely shines his glorie, the whole kingdome is but his walke, a whole cittie is but his parish in euery mans kitchin is his meate drest, in euery mans seller lyes his Beere, and the best mens purses keepe a penye for him to spend.

Since then the profession is ancient (as hauing beene from the beginning) and so generall, that all sortes of people make it their last refuge; Since a number of Artificers maintaine their houses

of London.

houses by it, Since we and many a thousand more live meretricious with it, let vs my braue Tawny-faces, not giue vp our patched cloaks, nor chage our coppies, but as we came beggers out of our mothers bellies, so resolute and set by your staues vpon this, to returne like beggers into the bowels of the earth. Dixi.

Scarce was the word Dixi belch'd out of his rotten Alpylunge, but all the Bench-whifflers from one end to the other, gaue a ringing Plaudite to the Epilogue of his speech, in signe of approbation: wherupon they rose vp as confusedly as they sat down, & hauing paid so farre as their purses would stretch for what they had deuoured, making Oes in chalke for the rest when they met there next, and euery man with his Morte being assigned to their quarter, with order giuen, at what following Faieres to shake hands, and what Ale-bush to tipple, with Items likewise giuen where, to strike downe Geese, where to steale Hens, and from what hedges to fetch sheetes, that may serue as patrones, away they departed.

Turba Grauis paci, placidæq; inimica Quietis.

So sooner were their backs turned, but I that all this while had stood in a corner (like a watching Candle) to see all their villanies, appeared in my likenes; and finding the Coast to bee perfectly cleere, none remaining in the house but the Hostesse to these Guestes, her did I summon to a second parlee. The spirit of her owne mault walkt in her brain-pan, so that what with the sweetenesse of gaines which shee had gotten by her merchāt Venturers, and what with the fumes of drinke, which (like a lustie gale to a wind-mill) set her tongue in going, I found her apt for talke, and taking holde of this opportunitie, after some intreatie to discouer to mee what these Vpright-men, Rufflers and the rest were, with their seuerall qualities and manners of life. Thus she began.

An Vprightman.

You shall vnderstand then (quoth she) that the chiefeest of those that were my Table-men to day, are called Vpright-men, whose Picture I will drawe to the life before you: An Vpright-man is a sturdie Wig-bonde knaue, that neuer

The Belman

uer walkes but (like a comaunder) with a short truncheon in his hand, which he calls his Filchman. At markets, Faircs, & other meetings, his voyce among Beggars is of the same sound that a Constables is of: it is not to be contrould, He is free of all the shires in England, but neuer stays in any place long, the reason is, his profession is to be idle, which being looked into, he knowes is punishable, and therefore to auoid the whip he wanders. If he come to a Farmers doore, the almes he begges is neither meat nor drinke, but onely money: if any thing else be offered to him, he takes it with disdain and laies it vnder a hedge for any that comes next: but in reuenge of this, if he spie any geese, hennes, duckes, or such like walking spirits haunting the house, with them he contiues about midnight, v-ling them the next morning like traytors, either beheading them or quartering them in pieces: for which purpose, this band of Vpright-men seldome march without fire or sire in a company, so that country people rather giue them money for feare then out of any deuotion. After this bloody massacre of the pooze innocent pullen, the Actors in their bloody Tragedie, repaire to their Stalling-kennes, and those are tipling houses, which will lend money vppon any stolen goods, and vnto which none but such guests as these resort: there the spits goe round, and the cannes walke vp and downe: there haue they their Morts and their Doxies, with whom (after they haue Bowled profoundly) they lye (in stead of Featherbeds vppon litters of cleane straw) to encrease the Generations of Rogues and Beggars: For these vpright men stand so much vppon their reputation, that they scorne any Mort or Doxie should be seene to walke with them; and indeede what need they care for them, when he may commaund any Doxie to leaue another man and to lye with him; the other not daring to inurmure against it. An vpright man will seldome complaine of want, for whatsoeuer any one of his profession doth steale, he may challenge a share in it, yea and may commaund any inferiour Rogue to fetch in booty to serue his turne. These carry the shapcs of soldiers, and can talke of the Low-Countries, though they neuer were beyond Douer.

of London.

A Ruffler.

The next in degree to him is call'd a Ruffler: the Ruffler and the Vp-right-man are so like in conditions, that you would sweare them Brothers: they walke with cudgels alike, they profess armes alike, though they be both out at elbowes, and will sweare they lost their limbes in their Countries quarrell, when either they are lame by diseases, or haue bene mangled in some drunken quarrell: These commonly are fellows that haue stood aloofe in the warres, and whilst others fought, they tooke their heeles and ran away from their Captaine, or else they haue bene Seruingmen, whome for their behaviour, no man would trust with a livery: if they cannot spend their daies to their mindes by their own begging or robbing of Countrey people that come late from Markets (for vpon those they most vsually exercise their trade) then do they compell the inferior subjects of their common wealth (as Rogues, Palliards, Morts, Doxies &c) to pay tribute vnto them. A Ruffler after a yeare or two takes state vpon him, and becomes an Vpright-man (but no honest man.)

An Angler.

An Angler is a limb of an Vpright-man, as being deriued from him: their apparell in which they walke is commonly streize Jerkins and gally slops: in the day time they Beg from house to house, not so much for releefe, as to spye what lyes fit for their nets, which in the night following they fish for. The Rod they angle with, is a staffe of five or sixe foote in length, in which within one inch of the top is a little hole boared quite through, into which hole they put an yron hooke, and with the same do they angle at windowes about midnight: the draught they pluck vp being apparel, sheets, couerlets, or whatsoever their yron hookes can lay hold of: which prize when they haue gotten, they do not presently make sale of it, but after foure or five daies, or according as they suspect inquirie will be made after it, do they bring such goods to a Boaker (traded vp for the purpose) who lends vpon them
D
halfe

The Belman

halfe so much money as they be worth, which notwithstanding serues the Angler a while for spending money, and enriches him that buyes it for a long time after.

A Rogue.

A Rogue is knowne to all men by his name, but not to all men by his conditions: no Villaine can dissemble more then hee, for he will speake in a lamentable tune, and crauele along the streetes, (supporting his body by a staffe) as if there were not life enough in him to put strength into his legs: his head shall be bound about with linnen, loathsome to behold, and as filthy in colour as the complexion of his face: his apparrell is all tattered, his bosome naked, and most commonly no shirt on: not that they are driuen to this miserie by mere want, but that if they had better clothes giuen them, they would rather sell them to some of their owne scatermitie then weare them, and wander by and downe in that pitteous maner, onely to moue people to compassion, and to be relieved with money, which being gotten, at night is spent as merrily and as lewdely as in the day it was. Inne by counterfeited villany. Another sect there be of these, and they are called Sturdy Rogues: these walke from country to country vnder colour of travelling to their friends, or to finde out some kinsman, or else to deliuer some letter to one Gentleman or other, whose name he will haue fauely endorsed on paper, folded vp for that purpose, and handsomely sealed: others vse this shift, to carrie a certificate or passport about them, with the hand and seale of some Justice to it, giuing notice how he hath bin whipped for a Tiacabond, according to the lawes of the Realme, and that he is now to returne to such a place where he was borne, or dwelt last, by a certain day limited, which is sure to be set down long enough, for all these writings are but counterfeited, they hauing amongst them (of their owne kincke) that can write and read, who are their Secretaries in this business. These fellows haue fingers as nimble as the Vpright-man, and haue their benches and meeting places, where whatsoeuer they get, they spend, and whatsoeuer they spend is to satisfie their lust: some of this broode are called Curtalls, because they weare

of London.

weare Hozt Cloakes: their company is dangerous, their liues detestable, and their ends miserable.

A wilde Rogue.

The Tame Rogue begets a Wilde Rogue, and this is a spirit that cares not in what circle he rises, nor into the company of what Diuels he falls: In his swadling clouts is he marked to be a villaine, and in his breeding is instructed to bee so: The mother of him (who was deliuered of her burden vnder a hedge,) either travelling with him at her backe, or else leading him in her hand, and will rather indure to see his bzaines beaten out, than to haue him taken from her, to be put to an horiell course of life, So enuious they are & so much doe they scorne any professiō but their owne: they haue bene Rogues themselves and disdain that their Childzen should be other wise. These Wilde-Rogues (like Wilde geese) keepe in flockes, and all the day droyter in the fieldes, (if the weather be warme) and at Wyck-killes, or else disperse themselves in colde weather, to Rich-mens doyes, and at night haue their meetings in barnes or other out-places, where (twentie or more in a company) they engender male and female, euerie one catching her to whom he doth best fancy, the stronger and more sturdy keeping the weaker in subiection: their language is bawdy talk, damned othes, and plots where to siltch the next morning, which they performe betimes: rising as earely as the Sunne, and enioyning their punches to looke out for cheates, to make their meeting at night the merrier.

A Prigger of Prancers.

A Prigger of Prancers is a horse-stealer, for to Prig, signifies in the Canting language to steale, & Prancer signifies a horse. These walke (in frieze or leather Jerkins) with a wand in their hands, watching in what pasture any horses are sit for their turne, and those within three or foure nights after are coyned away at the least 60. miles from the place: if they meete the owners in their ground, they haue shifts to auoide his suspicion by saying they haue lost their way to such a Towne.

The Belman

These Hackney men that let out horses, will request seruice at Gentlemens houses, 'heir skill being to keepe a Gelding wel, and if they get entertainment, they stand to their word, for they keepe the Gelding so well, that his Master shall neuer finde fault with any disease he hath, vnlesse it be that he had the dizziness in his head, which made him reele out of his stable to be solde fortie miles off at a fayre. These haue their female spies that suruey Pedowes and Closes, and long onelye for horse flesh.

A Palliard.

A Palliard comes next into my minde, & he likewise is cal'd a Clapperdugcon: his vpper Garment is an olde cloake made of as many peeces patchd together, as there be villanies in him: this Palliard neuer goes without a Mort at his heeles to home he calles his wife. Being either in the streete of a Citie or in a Countrie village: they deuine themselues, and beg alms at seuerall doores, but whatsoeuer is gotten (be it bread, cheefe, malt or wooll) they sell it to some Rogue or other, and with the money are merrie at a Bowling Ken. A Palliard carries about him (for feare of the worst) a Certificate (vnder a Ministers hand, with the Parishes name, which shall bee sure to stand farre enough) where this Mort and he were married, when all is but forged: many Irishmen are of this lowlie Regiment, & some Welchmen: And the better either to draw pittie from men, as also to giue cullo: to their lame wandring, with Spere-wort or Arsenick will they in one night payson their Leg, be it neuer so sound, and raise a blister, which at their pleasure they can take off againe.

A Frater.

A Frater is a brother of as dauid a broode as the rest: his office is to trauell with a long wallet at his backe, and a blacke bore at his girdle, wherein is a pattent to beg for some Hospitall or Spittle house: many of which pattens (especially if they be in paper or Parchment without the Great Scale) are counterfeit, And those that are not so, serue the beavers of them but

of London.

but as instruments to play the knaves by : for though they get neuer so much, the poore creatures for whom they beg, receive little of it , they lie soaking with a Doxie in a tippling house, whilst the spittle wretches are ready to starue for sustenance at home : let countrie women returning from markets if they be alone, and in a dangerous place, take heede of these Wretches , for they haue the art to vnhorse them , and a conscience to send them packing without any penny in their purses.

A Quire-bird.

Your Quire-birds are such as haue sung in such Cages as Pewgate, or a Countrie Gaole, and hauing their belles giuen them to flye, they seeke presently to build their nests vnder some honest mans rooffe, not with intent to bring him in any profit , but onely to put themselues into money or apparell (though it be by fitching) and then they take their flight.

An Abraham-man.

Of all the mad Kascalls (that are of this wing) the Abraham-man is the most fantasticke; The fellow (quoth this olde Lady of the Lake vnto mee) that sat halfe naked (at Table to day) from the Girdle upward, is the best Abraham-man that euer came to my house, and the notablest villaine: he sweares hee hath bene in Bedlam, and will talke frantickly of purpose : you see pinnes stuck in sundrie places of his naked flesh, especially in his armes, which paine he gladly puts himselfe too (being indeede no torment at all, his skin is either so deade with some foule disease, or so hardened with weather: onely to make you beleue hee is out of his wits,) he calles himselfe by the name of Poore Tom, and comming neere any body cries out Poore Tom is a colde . Of these Abraham-men, some bee exceeding merrie, and doe nothing but sing Songs, fashioned out of their owne braines, some will dance, others will doe nothing but either laugh or weepe, others are Dogged, and so fullen both in looke and speech that spying but a sinall company in a house, they boldly and bluntly enter, compelling the seruants through feare to giue them what they demaund, which

The Belman

is commonly bacon, or something that will yeeld ready money. The Vpright-man, and the Rogue are not terrible enemies to porritre ware, then poore Tom is: neither does any man thist cleane linnen oftner then he does his twenches.

A Whipiack.

Then there is another sort of nimble fingered knaues, and they are called Whipiacks: who talke of nothing but fights at Sea, Piracies, drownings and shipwacks, travelling both in the Shapes and names of Pariners, with a counterfeit Licence to beg from towne to towne, which licence they call a Gybe, and the Seales to it larkes. Their cullour of wandying from shire to shire (especially along the Sea coastes) is to har-ken after their Ship that was ouerthrowne, or for the marchandize stolen out of her, but the end of their land voyages is to rob Booths at faires, which they call heauing of the Booth. These Whipiacks will talke of the Indies, and of all countries that lye vnder heauen, but are indeed no more but fresh-water Souldiers.

A counterfeit Crank.

Baser in habit, and more vile in condition then the Whipiacke, is the Counterfeit crancke: who in all kinde of weather going halfe naked, staring wildey with his eyes, and appearing distracted by his lookes, complayning oney that he is troubled with the falling sicknesse: Albeit you gine them cloaths they wil wear none, but rather with those rags which they haue hanging about them should be made loathsome by myre, or their naked bosome and Armes to appeare full of burses, and to be bloudy with falling, thereby to kinde in men the greater compassion: to cause that foaming in their mouthes (which is fearfull to beholde by the standers by) they haue this trick priuily to conuay a peece of white soaps into one corner of their Jawes, which causeth the froth to come boyling forth. These Crancks haue likewise their meetings, and their twenches at commaund.

A Dum.

of London.

A Dummerar.

Equall to the Cranke in dissembling is the Dummerar, for as the other takes vpon him to haue the falling sicknesse, so this, counterfeits Dumbnes, but let him be whipped well, and his tongue (which he doubles in his mouth and so makes a horred and strange noyse instead of speech) will walke as fast as his handes doe, when he comes where any booty is.

A Iacke-man and a Patrico.

App because no common wealth can stand without some Learning in it. Therefore are there some in this Schoole of Beggers, that practise writing and reading, and those are called Iackmen: yea, the Iackman is so cunning sometimes that he can speake Latin: which learning of his liftes him vj to aduancement, for by that meanes he becomes Clark of their hall, and his office is to make counterfeite licences; which are called Gybes, to which he puts scales, and those are tearmed Iarkes. This Iack-man (for his knowledge) is haile fellowe well met with a Patrico, who amongst Beggers is their preist, euerie hedge being his parish, euerie wandring Harlot and rogue his parishioners: the seruice he saies, is onely the marrying of couples, which he does in a wood vnder a tree, or in the open field, and the solenentie of it is thus: The parties to be wedded, finde out a dead horse, or any other beast, and standing one on the one side, and the other on the other, the Patrico bids them to liue together till death them part, and so shaking hands, the wedding dinner is kept at the next Ale house they stumble into, where the musicke is nothing but knocking with Canes, and their dances none but druncken Brawles.

The Ceremo-
ny of marrying
Rogues vnder
a heddege.

An Irish Toyle.

In this Forrest of wilde men, the safest Toyles to pitch is the Irish Toyle, which is a net so strongly and cunningly woven togther, that they who goe a hunting with it, catch the
Common-

The Belman

Common-wealth, and Connycatch the subjects: for an Irish Toyle is a sturdy vagabond, who scorning to take paines that may make him sweate, stalkes onely vp and dowlne the Countrie with a wallet at his backe, in which he carries, laces, pins, points and such like, and vnder colour of selling such wares, both passeth to and fro quietly, and so commits many villanies as it were by warrant.

A Swigman.

Like vnto him in conditions is a Swigman or pedler, carrying a packe behinde him in stead of a Wallet: their trades are all one, sauing that the Swigman is somewhat better in behauiour, though little differing in honestie. They both stand in feare of the Vpright-man, and are forced oftentimes to pay him toale out of their packes.

A kinchin Coe.

The last rank of these Run-ages is filld vp with Kinchin Coes; and they are little boyes, whose parents (hauing bene Beggars) are dead, or else such as haue runne away from their Masters and in stead of a trade to liue by, followe this kinde of life to be lowly by. These Kinchins, the first thing they doe is to learne how to Cant, and the onely thing they practise is to creep in at windowes or Celler doores.

Thus haue I opened vnto you halfe the nest of this generation of Wipers, now will I discouer the other halfe, wherein sits a broode of Serpents, as dangerous and as loathsome as these: of which the young ones and the least are called Kinchin-Morts, and those are Cirles of a yeare or two old, which the Morts (their Mothers) carrie at their backs in their slates (which in the Canting tongue are sheetes) if they haue no children of their owne they will steale them from others, and by some meanes disfigure them, that by their parents they shall neuer be known. The second bird of this feather is a Del, and that is a yong wench, ripe for the act of Generation, but as yet not spoiled of her maiden-head: these Dels are reserved as dishes for the Vpright-mē, for none but they must haue y first taste

A kinchin.
Mort,

A Del.

of London.

of them, & after the Vpright-men haue desloozed them, (which commonly is when they are verie yong) then are they free for any of the brother-hood & are called Dels no more, but doxies. Of these Dels some are tearmed Wilde-dels, and those are such as are bozne and begotten vnder a hedge: the other are yong wenches that either by death of parents, the villanie of Executors, or the crueltie of Masters or Mistresses fall into this infamous and damnable course of life. When they haue gotten the title of Daxies, then are they common for any, and walke for the moste part with their betters, (who are a degree aboue them) called Morts. but whensoever an Vprightman is in presence, the Daxie is onely at his commaund. These Daxies will for good vittuals or a small peece of money, prostitute their bodies to seruicemen if they can get into any conuenient corner about their Masters houses, & to ploughmen in Barnes, Haploits or ifables: they are common pick-pockets, familiars with the baser sorts of cut-purses, and oftentimes secret murderers of those infants which are begotten of their bodies. These Daxies haue one speciall badge to bee knowne by, for most of them goe working of laces and shirt strings, or such like stufte, onely to gine colour to their idle wandzing.

Of Morts there be two kinds, that is to say, a walking mort and an Autein Mort: the Walking Mort is of more antiquitie than a Daxie, and therefore of more knauerie: they both are vnmarried, but the Daxie professes herselfe to be a maide, (if it come to examination) and the Walking mort saies shee is a widow, whose husband dyed either in the Portugal voyage, was slaine in Ireland or the Low countries, or came to his end by some other misfortune, leauing her so many smal infants on her hand in debt, whome not being able by her honest labour to maintaine, she is compelled to beg. These Walking Morts trauell from Countrie to countrie, making laces vpon staues, & small purses, and now and then white ballance for beds: Subtill queanes they are, hard hearted, light fingerd, cunning in dissembling, and dangerous to be met if any Ruffler or Rogue be in their copany. They fear neither God nor god lawes, but onely are kept in albe by the Vpright-men, who often times spoile them of al they haue, which to preuent, the Walking Morts vse this pollicie, they leaue their money (sometime five

A Daxie.

A walking Mort.

The Belman

shillings, sometimes ten shillings) in severall shires, with some honest farmers wife or others, whome they knowe they may trust, and when they trauell that way againe, at halfe yeares end, or a quarters, fetch it to seru: their turnes, but dare neuer goe in good cloathes, least the Vpright-men either strip them into rags, or else skarke naked, as they vse to doe.

An Autem mort,

An Autem Mort, is a woman married, for Autem in the Beggers language is a Church: these Mortes seldome keep with their husbands, but are from them sometimes a moneth or two, yet neuer walke they without a man in their company, and boyes and girles at their heeles of ten or twelue yeres old, whome they imploye at windowes of houses in the night time, or early in the mornings, to pilfer any thing that is worth the carping alway (which in their tongue) they call Nilling of the Ken. These Autem Mortes walke with wallets on their Shoulders, and Slates (or sheetes at their backs, in which they vse to lie. Their husbands commonly are Ruslers, Vpright-men, or Wilde Rogues, and their companions of the same bred.

A Bawdy basket,

There is another Parrot (in this Bird-cage) whose feathers are more streake, and tongue more smoothe than the rest, and she is called a Bawdy Basket, these Bawdy baskets are women that walke with baskets or Cap-cases on their armes, where in they haue laces, pinnes, needles, white Juckle, tape, round white silke Girdles, and such like: these will buy Cony Skins, and in the meane time steale Linnen or pewter: they are faire spoken, and will seldome sweare whilst they are selling their wares, but lye with any man that hath a mind to their commodities The Vpright-men and these hold such league together, that whatsoeuer they haue is common to them both, and oftentimes will they with money releue one another.

Demaunders of Glimmer,

The selfe same Truce is taken betweene the Vpright-men and the damaunders of Glimmer, that is to say, those who trauell by & downe with licences to begge, because their houses haue bene consumed with fire, for Glimmer (in Canting) signifies fire. These Glimmering Mortes are so tender harted, & they shed teares if they make but mention of their losses, & tell a lamentable storie how the fire destroyed their barnes, stables &c. all that they speak being meer lyes: they likewise carrie wallets at their backs, and are onely attended vpon and defended

of London.

ded by the Vpright-men, who neuer walke along with them thzough any towne, but keepe alsofe.

And these (quoth the Hostesse of the Beggars) are al oꝝ the cheefest (both He-Deuils and Shee-deuils) that dance in this large circle. I haue bzought you acquainted with their names, their natures, their tradings, and their trafficke: if you haue a desire to know moze of them, you shall finde whole congregati-
ons of them at Saint Quintens, & Three-cranes in the vintry, Saint Tibs and at Knapsbury, which foure places are foure se-
neral barnes within one miles cōpassē neere London, being but
fick names giuen to them by the Vpright-men, In those
Innes do they lodge enery night; In those doe Vpright-men
lie with Morris, and turne Dells in Doxies (that is to say ra-
uish young wenches) whilst the Rogue is glad to stand at re-
uerſion and to take the others leauings. In Middlesex likewise
stand foure other Harbours for them, namely, Draw the pud-
ding out of the fire (which is in the parish of Harrow on the
Hil) The crossekeyes (which is in Cranford parish) (Saint Lu-
lians (which is in Thistleworth parish) And the house of
Piccie in Northall Parish. The Kings Barne neere Darford,
and Ketbrooke neare Blackheath, are likewise houses of
good receit for them: In all which haue they such Innes as
these; and in all of them and these recited, shall you finde some
times 40. Vpright men together, ingendring beggers with
their Morts. No sinne but is heere committed without shame,
Adulterie is common amongst them, Incest but laughed at,
Sodomy made a iest: At these Hauens do they cast anchor bold-
ly because none are by to barre their entrance; yea those that
are owners of these Barnes and Backhouses, dare not but giue
welcome to these Vnruly Gueſtes; for if they should not, they
would at one time oꝝ other set fire of their houses, oꝝ by bloudy
and trecherous practises take away their liues. For this cause
fir (quoth she) am I glad to looke smilingly vpon them, and to
play & Hostesse because my abiding stands so farre from com-
pany; yet I protest (quoth she) I hate & sight of them as know-
ing them to be hell hounds, and haue made discouerie of their
deuillish cōditions, because you may teach others how to auoyd
them: and howsoeuer you may be drawn peraduenture to pub-
lish these abuses to the world (saide she) yet I pray you conceale
my name, the publishing of which may cost me my life.

The Bel-man

By this time, the fumes of Ale which had dis tempered her braines, and set her tongue a going were disper sed; so that both her lookes and speech shewing that she did not now dissemble, but vttered these things vnfaignedly, I gaue her many thanks for her Discouerie, counselled her to change her discomfortable Lodging, and to dwell in a place more inhabited (which she promised to doe) and away I went. A thousand cogitations kept me company & I trauelled alone by my selfe: sozry I was to heare that in those places where Innocence and Simplicity should be bozne, so much and such vgly Villany should be nourished, yet was I glad that I came to the knowledge of their euils, because the dressing of such wounds in a common wealth, is the curing of them.

Looking therefore with more pearcing eyes into the Countrey life, I began to hate it worse then (before) I loued it, I fell to dispraise it faster then euer I did comend it. For I found it full of care, and full of craft: full of labour, and yet full of penurie; I saw the poore husbandman made a slaue to the rich farmer, the farmer racked by his landlozd: I saw that couetousnesse made deere yeares when she had fullest barnes; and to curse plentie for being liberal of her blessings. I had heard of no sinne in the Cittie but I met it in the village; noz any Vice in the tradesman, which was not in the ploughman. All places therefore being haunted with euill Spirits, I forsooke the fields & the Mountaines. and tooke my iourney back againe to the citie whose customes (both good and bad) I desired to be acquainted with. It was my fortune to trauell so late, that the Mone had climed vp to the very top of Midnight, before I had entrance into the gates of the Citie, which made me make the more hast to my lodging, But in my passage I first heard (in some good distance before me) the sound of a bell, and then of a mans voice, both whose tunes seemed at that dead houre of the night very dolefull: On I hastened to know what noyse it should be, and in the end found it to be the Belman of London. The sound of his Voyce at the first put me in mind of the day of Iudgement; When (me thought) starting out of their sleepes, at the ringing of his bel, as when they are to rise from their graues at the call of a trumpet: But when I approached neare vnto him and beheld a man with a lanthorne and canole in his hand, a long staffe on his

of London.

his neck, and a dog at his taile, I supposed verily, because the Poone shone somewhat dimly, that the man in the Moone had left downe from heaven, & (soe fast) had left his bush of thornes behinde him. But these imaginations vanishing, as fast as they were begotten, I began to talke to my Bel-man, and to aske him why with such a Jangling and bailing, and beating at Pens doozes, he went about to waken either pooze men that were ouer-wearied with labour, or sick men that had most need of rest: he made answere vnto mee, that the Ringing of his Bell, was not (like an Allarum in a toln of Garrison) to fright the inhabitants, but rather it was musique to charme them faster with sleepe: the Bearing at their doozes assured those within, that no thieues were entred, nor that false seruants had wilfully or negligently suffered the dozes to stand open, to haue their matters robd, & that his crying out so loud, was but like the shrill Good morrow of a Cock, to put men (that had wealth enough) in minde of the time how it slideth away, and to bid those that are full of businesse to be watchfull for their due houres when they were to rise. He cald himselfe therefore the Centinell of the Cittie, the watchman for euerie ward, the honest Spy that discovered the pzentizes of the night, and that as a lanthorne in the poope of a Ship, was a guide or comfort to sea-men in most pitchy darknesse, so was his walking by and downe in the night tyme, a pzentention to the Cittie oftentimes of much and many dangerous fires. I liked wel that thus he praised himselfe, because in those praises lay the commendation of an honourable, ciuill, and politicke gouernment. And so farre delt I with him that in the end he brought me acquainted with his office, as well as he knew it himselfe, and discovered vnto me the properties of his walkes, as how farre his boundes reached; what mad hobgoblings he oftentimes encountered with, what mischiefs he now and then pzentented, what knaueries he was now and then an eye witness to, and to what secret villanies (brought to bed in darknesse) he was compeld to be (though not the midwife) yet a gossip, present at the labour and deliuerie. Of all which I hauing a longing desire to get the true pictures, and perswading him that he was bound by his place, by his conscience. and by the lawes of common humanity to lay open such plots as were

to

The Bel-man

so dangerous to the common wealth whereof he was a member, he yielded at the length to discover all that he knew, and for that purpose not only carried me home to his lodging where he gaue me the notes and names of sundrie abuses begotten in the dead of night, but also went by and do wone the Citty with me all the next day, shewing me the very doozes and signes at which they dwell, and the very faces of those that are the Devils Factors in those lowe country commodities of Hell: I learnt much by the Bell-mans intelligence, but more afterwards by my owne observation and experience; what merchandise I stoied my selfe with by both Voyages, heere doe I bulade, and what profit sooner arises by the trafficke of them, shall if you please be wholly yours. And for that the Lading was of sundry commodities, I will deliuer them forth in their severall parcells, as I received them.

Of cheating Lawe.

ALL Vices maske themselves with the vizards of Vertue: they borrowe their names, the better and more currantly to passe without suspicion: for murder will be called Manhood, Drunkennesse is now held to be Phisicke, Impudence is Audacitie, Riot good fellowship &c. So are these Villaines (whose faces I mean to discover) painted ouer with fresh orient colours, because their lookes may be more pleasing, and lesse suspected to haue craft underneath them. And for that purpose haue their Knaueries gotten the names of Arts or Lawes, as the Art of such a thing or such a lawe, not that they are institutions set downe by lawe for the good of men, or of a commonwealth; but as the Lawe is groundd vpon reason, and hath Maximes of Iustices, vpon which she buildeth al her Policies whereby she gouerns kingdomes: So these new-found Lawes of the Devils inuention, are groundd vpon Mischeife and are nothing else but certaine Acts and Rules drawne into heapes (in an assembly of damned Wretches) for the utter vndoing of Men, and confusion of a Weale publike.

Of all which Lawes, the Highest in place, and the Highest in perdition is the Cheating Law, or the art of winning money by false dyce: Those that practise this study cal themselves Cheaters,

of London.

ters, the Dice Cheaters, and the money which they purchase Cheates: borrowing the tearme from our common Lawyers, with whom all such casuals as fall to the Lord at the holding of his Leetes, as Waifes, Straies, & such like, are said to be Escheated to the Lords vse, and are called Cheates. This sorte of gamsters, was at first a few in number, (the art being odious) they were poore (as being hated and banen from all good mens company.) But now, there are so many profess Cheaters, and so many that giue countenance to their occupation, that they might make an armie sufficient to giue the Turke a battaile: now are they not hungry thread bare knaues, but gallants that ruffle in silkes, and are whoyried throug the streets in Coaches, their purses being full of Crownes, and their fingers being held vp able to commaund the proudest Curtizan. Yea, so such a rancenes hath custome brought this vice, and to such a boldnes, that in the most noble assemblies, at the best Ordinaries where your onely gallants spend afternoones, and in your most ciuill meetings of Merchants, your welthiest Cittizens, if they fall to play with Dice for any round summes of money, it is now growne to a fashion to haue some one or other to take vp the Cheaters weapons, and (without all respect of honestie, friendship or societie) to beate all commers.

A Cheater plaies his Daisters prize at 14. seuerall weapons, and those weapons are these.

The names of false Dice.

- A Bale of bard sincke Dewces.
- A Bale of Flat sincke Dewces.
- A Bale of Flat sice Aces.
- A bale of bard sice Aces.
- A Bale of Bard cater-treas.
- A bale of Flat Cater-Treas.
- A bale of Fullams.
- A bale of light Graniers.
- A bale of Langrets, contrarie to the vantage.
- A bale of Gordes, with as many High-men as Low-men for passage.
- A bale of Demies.
- A bale of Long-Dice for euen and odd.

The Belman

A bale of bristles.

A bale of Direct contraries.

These are the 14 diuelliſh hookes, by which the Cheater angles for other mens money, hee cares not in what Riuer, hee makes no conscience with what baite, so hee may haue good draughes to maintaine himselfe in ryots, and his whose in rich apparrell, that's the white hee shootes at. Neither doth he let all these arrowes flie at one marke nor in all weathers, But some he shootes in one game, some in another. and as he findes what fooles are in his company, so does he bestowe his bolts. To set downe all the Legierdemaine of this handy-craft, would peradventure instruct some ill minded persons in y^e villany, which is published onely to haue others shun it: I will therefore shew you a few of their iugling tricks (that are Graduates in the art) and by the shape of them, iudge the rest, for all are alike.

A Langret is a Die which simple men haue seldoms heard of, and hapily neuer seene (but to their cost) It is (to the eye of him that is but a p^ouice) a good and square Die, yet it is cut longer vpon the Cater and Trea, then vpon any other point, & is for that cause called a Langret: these Langrets are also called Bard Cater Treas, because in the running, the longer end will commonly (of his own sway) draw downe wards, & turne either Sice, Sink, Dewce or Ace vponwards on the board; y^e principall vse of them is at Nouum. For so long as a paire of bard Cater Treas be walking, so long can you cast neither 5. nor 9. vnles it be by great chance, that the roughnes of the Table, or some other stoppe force them to stay, and to runne against their kinde; for without Cater Trea, 5. or 9. you know can neuer come. Here some may imagine, that by this meanes he y^e hath the first Dice in his hand, may strip all that play at the Table of their money; but this must be their helpe. An odde die called a Flat Cater Trea, (and no other number) is to be ready at hand, for granting the Trea and cater to be alwaies vpon the one die, then is there no chance vpon the other die, but may serue to make 5 or 9. and so cast forth and lose all.

The Cheater therefore marketh well the Flat, and bendeth a great part of his studie to learne when he is abroad, for so long as that is sticking, he will neuer cast at much: the shift which

The Belman

a Cheater is driuen to, in conneying the Flat in and out, is a notable cunning, and in their trade is calld Foysting; which is nothing else but a sleight to carry Dice easily in the hand so often as the Foyster listeth; so that when either he or his partner casteth the Dice, the Flat comes not abroad till he hath made a Great hand, otherwise the Flat is still sure to be One, unlesse the Cheater of purpose suffers the silly Novices, with whome he plays, to cast in a hand or two to giue them courage and to liue in hope of winning.

The damnable Oaths and Quarrells that waite at the table of Gamblers, are occasion that many men forbear to venture money in those sports, who otherwise would play: the Cheater therefore (being a cunning obseruer in all fashions) will seldome sweare (if he haue gotten a Gul into his company whome he is loath to anger for feare he loose him) and as seldome swaggar, but will rather put vp an open wrong, then by a foolish braule to breake off the company and so hinder himselfe and his consort of purchase: But if he sweare, you would take him for a puritane, for his oaths are Of honestie, Of troth, by Saint Martin, &c. And take this note, that when he sweares affirmatiuely, he means alwaies the contrary. As for example, if I say vnto you when the Dice come to your hands, Of honestie cast at al, my meaning is, you shall cast at the table, or else at very little: or if when one being stript out of all his money, offer to patvne a Ring or a Jewell, and I sweare by Saint Martin I thinke it is fine gold, then do I mean that it is pure copper, and so of the rest: He that is drawne in to venture his money, is (amongst this cursed brotherhood of Cheaters) treated a Cosen, and is handled so kindly, as if he were a Cosen indeed: if he once set in a foote, and that they fall to Hunt him, then at the craft is to make the Cony sweate, that is to say, so wisely to handle him, that he may haue a desire more and more to play and to keepe company; yet so wauily to increase this appetite in him that he smooke not the Cheater, which is, that he smell not what knauerie is bent against him and so slip the collar like a Houe, and shake off the company for ever.

At the taking vp of a Cosen, the first Veny that a Cheater giues him, is to learne before he play what stoke of Bit he hath in his Bay, that is, what money he hath in his purse, and wher

The Belman

ther it be in great Cogges or small: that is in gold or silver, and at what game he will soonest steepe; for that being knowne, his humour is fed, and he is choked with the meat he loves best. For some that will not play a groat at Nouum, will loose a hundred pound at Hazard, and he that will not loose a shilling at Dice, will play away his patrimony at Cardes: for which cause the Cheater furnisheth himselfe for all voyages, but especially provides for fine Cheares, and to atchieue which with more ease, he acquaints himselfe with Dice-makers, that worke in corners, (Warlets they are that are Factors to the deuill, and for money will exchange their soules in a bale of Dice) These Dice makers, arme th: Cheater with the foresaide 14 weapons, and then he is a Cheater compleat.

One notable policy is (as a Rule) set downe in this Schoole of cheating, & that is, A Cheater neuer discovereth the secrets of his Art to any, vntlesse it be to such a one who being left by his parents, rich in money and possessions, hath to the musicke of square rattling bones danced so long, that he hath danced himselfe into the company of beggers, and is brought to such want and misery, that he would leaue no stone vnturned to finde a pennie vnder it. Such a wretch is instructed in those Villanies, by which he himselfe hath bene wrought to infamy: the poison y once he swallowed doth he now cast vp to kill others with it. Neither doth the Cheater bestow this learning vpon his yong Scholler, out of a commiseration of his low estate, but onely to make vse of him, euen in the height of his extremitie. His lorny man therefore doth he make him, and because the Cheater is happily a man so noted in al companies, that few or none wil venture money where he playes, the Nouice is taught to play his schollers prize, whilst the other stands by and looks on, yet so, that the Cheater hath the sweetnes of the gaines. The Nouices employments then, are amongst his rich Kinred, Countrymen, or acquaintance to finde out Consens; whome he must by one trick or other get to a Hauerne, or inuite them to a supper, at the end of which, the Cheater layes about him to draw them to play, & secretly lends his Pupill money to maintaine game, both their wits working how to cheate those that are in the company. We haue bene so long at Dice, let vs now fall to Cardes.

of London.

Of Barnards Law.

Dice and Cardes are Twins, idlenesse was the father of them, Desire of gaines the mother, Honest Recreation saies she was their Nurse, and ought to haue the byrning of them by: but howsoeuer, the Deuil makes them now his adopted Childzen: and no wonder, for they are like in conditions, as being both (like him) full of deceit: if there be counsage in tripping of a die, there is the like craft in shuffling and sorting of a paire of cardes: insomuch, that what game soeuer is on foote, he that is marked out to be the looser (by the Synodcall assembly and Fathers of the Barnards Law, is sure neuer to depart a winner.

To speake of all the sleights vsed by Card-players in all sorts of Games, would but weary you that are to reade, and be but a thankles and vnplesing labour for me to set them down. Denyting therefore the deceits practised (euen in the fairest and most ciuil companies) at Primero, Sannet, Maw, Tromp, and such like games, I will onely lay open the villanies of a base kinde of people, that trauell by and down the whole land, sometimes in the habit of Gentlemen, sometimes of Seruingmen, sometimes of Grasers, Farmers and plaine fellows, maintaining themselves onely by the cozenage they vse in Card-playing: which kinde of play of theirs, they call The Barnards Law.

To act which knauith Comedy of Wily-begily, 5. Persons are required: and those are,

- 1 The Taker.
- 2 The Cozen.
- 3 The Verser.
- 4 The Barnard.
- 5 The Rutter.

These are the players: now shall you heare their parts.

- 1 The Taker, is he that by some fine inuention fetcheth in the man whome they desire to draw into Gaming.
- 2 The Cozen is the partie that is taken.
- 3 The Verser, is a fellow more graue in speech & habit, and

The Belman

seemes to be a landed man: his part is to second what the taker begins, and to giue countenance to the act.

4 The Barnard is the chiefe player, for he counterfeits many parts in one, and is now a drunken man, anon in another humour, and shifts himselfe into so many shapes, only to blind the Cozen, and to feede him with more delight, the more easily to beguile him.

5 The Rutter is as arrant a knaue as the rest, his part is discharged when hee hath begun a fray with his owne shadowe, whilst the rest that haue made a younger Brother of the poore Cozen, scale out of sight. Now to the countrie it selfe: The Prologue of which if it goe off well, there is good hope all shall end well: All the cunning thereof is how to begin, and to do that, the Taker studies his part at his fingers endes. The Stage on which he plaies his prologue is either in Fleet-street, the Strand, or in Paules, and most commonly in the after-noon, when Countrie Clients are at moste leasure to walke in those places or for dispatching of their businesse, trauell from Lawyer to Lawyer, through Chancerie lane, Holbozne, and such like places.

In this heate of running to and fro, if a plaine Fellowe well and cleanly appavelled, either in home-spunne Ruffet or Frize (as the season requiress) with a side pouch at his girdle, happen to appeare in his rusticall likenesse. There is a couzen saies one. At which word out flies the Taker, and thus giues the on-set vpon my olde Penny-father. Sir, God saue you: you are welcome to London, how doe all our good friends in the Countrie? I hope they be well: the Russeting amazed at these salutations of a stranger, replies: Sir, all our friendes in the countrie are in health, but pra'y pardon me, I know you not belceue it: So (answers the Taker) are you not a Lancashire man, or of such a countrie: if he saies yes, then the sly nibbles and he giues him more line to play with: if he say no, then the Taker hath about with another weapon, & sweares soberly. In good sooth sir I know your face, & am sure wee haue bene merie together, I pra'y (if I may beg it without offence) bestow your name vpon mee, and your dwelling place. The innocent man, suspecting no poison in this gilded cup, tels him presently his name and abiding, by what Gentleman he dwels. &c. which being

of London.

being done, the Taker for thus interrupting him in his way, and for the wrong in mistaking him for another, offers a quart of wine: if the Cozen bee such an ass to goe into a Tauerne, then hee is sure to bee Unckled, but if hee smack my Taker, and smell Gun-powder traines, yet wil not be blown vp, they part fairly, and then to the Verser goes the Taker, discovering what he hath done, and deliueres the mans name, countrie, and dwelling to the Verser, who boldly stepping to him, or crossing the way to meete him full in the face, takes acquaintance presently of him, salutes him by his name, inquires how such and such Gentlemen doe, that dwell in the same towne by him, and albeit, the Honest Hobnaile-wearer, can by no meanes bee brought to remember this new friend, yet will he nil he, to the Tauerne he sweares to haue him, and to bestowe vpon him the best wine in London.

Diuers other pullies (if these two faile) haue they to drawe simple men into their company, as by dropping a shilling in the open way, which being taken vp in the Countrie-mans sight, must be spent in wine, because he shall haue his halfe part, or by intreating him to step into a Tauerne till the Verser haue writ a word or two into the Countrie, which hee must carrie to his friendes, offering the Cozen a shilling for his paines. But the conclusion of all is, that if they thinke his bag is well lined with silver, to the Tauerne by one subtil hooke or other, they will pull him, where being set with the Verser, and the Taker, and wine called for: In comes the Barnard stumbling into the Roome, as if it were by chaunce, seeming to be halfe drunke: and crying the companie mercie for being so bolde with them, they modestly answer no hurt is done, and aske him if hee will drinke with them: hee takes their offer, and sweares to pay for a pinte of wine, which they by no meanes will suffer.

But the Barnard telling them he has money for what he calls, and vsing phrases fit for a drunken man, out lies some 20. or 40. Angels on the board, which he puts vp presently againe and saies, seeing they will not suffer him to paye for a pinte, hee will play at cardes for it with any one of them at a new game which he leant but now, with the last onely of a pot of Ale. The rest of his comfort (making as though what they doe is to bee

The Belman

rid of him, are content to play for a pinte and no more. The Taker or the Verfer is the man must play with him, the Cards are fetcht, Mumchaunce or Decoy is the game: the first wager is wine, the second two pence in money, from two pence they rise to a shilling from that to a pound, and hauing drawn some good stoe of gold from the Barnard, the Cozen (allured with the sweetnes of gaine, and hope of winning, seeing the other halfe drunke, as he imagines) is offered to be half in what-soeuer is woon: he stoops to this lure, but the bush is so well beaten by these subtill fowlers, that in the end, all the birds are flowne out of the Cozens hand, and hee hath not one pennye left him in his purse: if then he smell the knauerie, and fall to calling for a Constable, swearing the drunken rascall hath cozened him (for the Barnard you must knowe carries away all the money) then enters the Rutter, who picking some idle quarrell either in the roome, or at the streete doore, the cotiey of the cheat is take their sight in the meane time, and that (with the sharing of the purchase in another Tauerne) is the Epilogue to their commedie, but the first entrance to the peoe countreimans Tragedie.

These Comedians strowte likewise vp and down the countrie in the habites of Seruingmen, and silly fellows, haunting Brainford, Kingston, Croyden, Rumbord, & such other places neereest London vppon the Market daies onely, and at the ende of market, when Butchers, grassiers & others whom they think to be stozed with money are on their way home, then will one of this crew ouertake them in ryding, and light at some towne of purpose to mend his girt, to remouue a shooe of his horse, or vppon any other excuse, intreating the company (with whome he is newly acquainted) to stay and drinke a pot with him in the meane time. And in these countrie boyages doe they saile by other points of the compasse, the windes are not so boisterous, nor the Seas so rough as the former, for here is there neither one that plaies the drunkard nor any that swaggers, but these deuillish Masquers, passe vnder these names at such meetings. viz. 1 The partie that fetcheth in the gul, (whose feathers they meane to pluck) is not called the Taker, but the Setter 2 He that seconds him, keepe his first title, and is called the Verfer. 3 He that looseth his money, not a Cozen but a cony. 4 He that

of London.

that comes in, and before counterfeited the Drunken Barnard, is now sober and called the Barnacle.

Sometimes likewise this Card-cheating, goes not under the name of Barnards Law, but is called Bat-fowling, and then the Setter is the Better, the foole that is caught in the net, the Bird, the Tauerne to which they repaire to worke the feate is the Bush, the wine the Strap, and the Cardes the Limetwigs.

Thus haue I discouered a strange Art, by which Conyes are caught after a new manner of hunting, and Cozens found out that were neuer of the kindred before. Thus the honest farmer simply going about his businesse, is stripped of that money, which should further his Law-sutes, and so perhaps is ouerthrowne; Thus the Seruingman being sent with his Lords treasure, is cheated and turned out of seruice: Thus the prentice hauing his Maisters wealth in his hand, is rob'd (by faine theues) and in the end driuen to run away or to dye in prison. Thus the Gentleman comming new to his land is made a begger: thus the Merchant is vndone. Thus all men are abused. Thus the common-wealth is dishonoured by feeding such vipers in her wombe, that cannot liue but by gnawing out of her bowels.

Vincents Law.

THe Dying Cheater, and the cozening card-player, walk in the habites of Gentlemen, and carry the faces of honest men. So likewise doe those that are students in the Vincents Lawe: whose Inns is a bowling Alley, whose bookes are bowles, and whose law-cases are lurches and rubbers. The pastime of Bowles, is now grown to a common exercise, or rather a trade, of which some of all companies are free, the sport is not so common as the cozenage vsed in it, which to haue it liue with credit and in a good name, tis called the Vincents law.

In this Lawe they which play bootie are the Bankers.

He that betteth is the Gripe.

He that is cozened is the Vincent.

The grines gotten is called Termage.

The Bankers are commonly men apparelled like honest and
substan-

of London.

substantiall Citizens: who come into the Bowling Allies for a rubbers or so, as though it were rather for sport, then for any gaines, protesting they care not whether they winne or lose: which carelesnes of theirs is but a shadow to their pretended knauery: whilst they are crying Rub, rub, rub & a great one, In come the spectators dropping one by one, and stand leaning ouer a stile to beholde them; of which oftentimes some simple men that neuer saw common Bowling Ally before, may perhaps be of the number, and is brought in of purpose by one of their own Brotherhoope to be rid of his mony: if such a young bird happen amongst them, and do once but chirp, thats to say either take or offer any lay, they all harken to his note, especially if he sing shilly, thats to say be deepe: if there be good stoe of Lookerson, then are there certain olde soakers, whose office is to doe nothing but listen for bettes either euene or odd: & these are called Gripes; which Gripes will refuse no Lay, if the ods may grow to their aduantage, for the Gripes & the Bankers are woorn brothers to the deuill (their father in laine) and the bowles haue such vertue in them that their biases will directly run, as the Gripes haue placed their Bets. the Bankers (albeit they so play as if they minded nothing but their owne game) yet haue still an eare how the layes are made, and according to that leuell do they throw their bowles, so that be sure the bowlers play booty: for suppose 7. be vp for the game, and that the one side hath 3. the other none, then the Vincent (who is the Nouice that standeth by, and is not acquainted with the tallents of these Gripes, nor feels not when they draw bloud of him, nor both not so much as carrie an euill thought of the bowlers that they should play booty, looking so grauely and so like to honest men) hee poore colt, seeing three to none, begins to grow lustie, and to offer odds on that side which is fairest for the game: what ods saies the Gripe? 3. to one cries the Vincent: no sayes the Gripe it is more, and with that the Bankers are come to foure for none, then the Vincent offers to lay foure to one: I take six to one sayes the Gripe, I lay it cryes the Vincent: and so they make a bet of six crownes, shillings, or pence, as the Vincent is of abilitie to lay: and thus will sundry take their ods of him: On then goe the Bankers with the game and win another cast which is true for none; at this

of London.

This fooler for tune of his, the Vincence grinner for loy, scratches his elbowe, and is so proud, that no ground about the Alley can hold him, thinking verily both by the ods and goodnesse of the play, it is impossible for his side to loose, and therefore (being now fooler-hardy) hee takes and layes bets freelye: all eyes greedily marking the crient of this Roome; At the length on a suddaine, the Sunne begins to shine on the other side that were none, and they winne perhaps so long till they come to thre or five, and still as their luck altars, diversitie of bets are laide; till at last they are five for five: and then the Gripe comes vpon the Vincent, and offers him ods, which if the Vincent fasten vpon, he loseth all, for vpon what side soeuer the Gripe layes, that side euer wins, how great soeuer the ods be at first on the contrarie part; so that the cozenage growes in at playing bootie. This soyle banquet to the Vincent is seasoned with sweet meats to the Bankers and y Gripes, who at night meete in some Tauerne, and share the money gotten by this base meanes, which money they call Termage.

Now to shadow the villany the more, the Banker that wins and is a forehand with the game, will lay frankly that hee shall winne, and will bet hard, and lay great ods, but with whom? either with them who play with him that are as crafty knaues as himselfe, or else with the Gripe, and this makes the Vincent to scoope to the blow the sooner. Besides, if any honest men that holde themselves skillfull in bowling, offer to play any set match against these common bowlers, if these Bankers feare to haue the worst, and suspect the others play to be better than theirs, then haue they a trick (in watring of the alley) to giue such a moisture to the bank, that hee who offers to strike a bowle with a shoe, shall neuer hit it whilst hee liues, because the moisture of the Bancke hinders the proportion of his Aiming. Many other practises there are in Bowling, tending to cozenage, but the greatest and grossest is Boory, in which the deceit is so open and palpable, that I haue seene men stone blinde offer to lay bets frankly, although they could see a bowle no more then a post, onely by hearing who plaide, and how the olde Gripes had made their layes.

Thus, sports that were inuented for honest recreation, are by the wicked abusing of them, turned to mens confusion: And

The Bel-man

not onely in these games before rehearsed, but also in those that are both more laudable, and more lawfull. For in the Tennis court cheating hath a hand, yea and in shooting, which is the noblest exercise of our English Nation, arrowes do now and then flie with false feathers. Since then that all kinde of Gaming serues but as gulphes to deuoure the substances of men, and to swallow them vp in beggerie, my counsell is vtterly either to restraintsuch pastimes, or if men are of such spirits that they must needs venture their money, then to be very prouident how they play, and to be choyse of their company. Now let vs turne ouer the volumes of other Lawes, enacted in the Parliament of these Deuills.

The Black Art.

HAuing waded thus farre in these puddles of damnd impiety, it shall not be amisse to goe on, and search euen to the bottome and farthest shoare of them: to effect which the sooner, we must now deale in the Blacke Arte. It is not that Black Art, by which men coniure vp spirits, and raise Deuils in Circles, to tell where money is hid, or whether goods that are stolne are conuaid; But this Black Art, is to fetch away money where it lyes, and to raise vp a fiend in a rich Percers or Goldsmithes shop at midnight without the gibbush of a Starving Coniurer. This Blacke art works in darkenes, as wel as the other: it deales with the Deuill as the other doth, and is as vnlawfull as the other is: if you will needes (in a word) know the mistickall meaning of this blacke Arte, it is called in English Picking of Lockes, and this Engine of mischeife turnes vpon these fve wheeles, viz.

The Picklocke is called a Charme.

He that watcheth if any body come is the Stand.

The fooles that doe the busines are called Wrestlers.

Picking of the locke is called Farling.

The gaines gotten is Pelferie.

Now albeit that two persons only are employed in this vndermining of a doore, viz the Charme & the Stand, yet the burglary is committed by other hands, which are in a readinesse to receiue the goods (when the house is entred) and to conuey

of London.

they them in parcells away. The Charme (who is the master of this black Art, goes like a coniuiter, with a number of keyes and wozells like so many Pentacles) about him, which he calls picklocks, and for euery sundrie fashio[n] they haue a sundrie terme, but being ignorant of their wozds of Art, I omit them, onely assuring you thus much, that the Charme hath such cunning, and such dexteritie in opening of a Locke (and that without any great noyse) that no ward whatsoever (be it neuer so doubled) but flies backe at his Juggling with it. Some haue their instrumentts from Italy made of Steele, some are made here in England by Smiths that are partners & pertakers in their villanous occupations. But howsoever, the trade of Lock-picking may well be called the Black-Art, for none study it, but those that for other mens goods haue solde their very soules to the Deuill.

The Curbing Law.

The Black Art and the Curbing Law, are grounded both vpon the selfe same positions: for the Blacke Art teaches how to breake open a lock, the Curbing Law how to hooke goods out of a window; they both are workers in Iron, both are begotten in Idleness, both liue by villanie, and both die by infamy. A smith is the maker and setter vp of these two trades the hangman is the vtter vnder of them. This Curbing Law spreads it selfe into foure maine branches.

He that hooke is calld the Curber.

He that plays the spy is the Warpe.

The Hooke is the Curbe.

The goods are called Snappings.

The Gin to open the window is a Tricker.

The office of the Curber is for the most part betimes in the mornings (at the discharging of a watch) to be vp moze earely then a noyse of strutting fiddlers; and the husbandrie which he folloves is in the day time to watch what shops or windowes stand fittest for his trade, which if he finde easily to be opened, then the cony is in the parquite without much fretting: But if he must take paines for his liuing, out come his Trickers, & then (as if he were a brother of the Black-Art) doth he with

The Bel-man

those Iron engines, cut a barre of Iron in sunder, in such sort that scarce the standers by shall heare him. The window being thus open, and that hee hath good hope to meete with fatte Snappings, (or rich purchase) the warp bukkles to play his part and watches with cats-eyes in the darke, looking (like one a squint, or as if hee stood to catch Bares) two waies, one to spie who comes, the other to note what comes out at the window: to carrie which away hee is furnished with a long Cloake. But first must the Curber play his prize, and that is with an Iron about nine foot in length, at whole end (being crooked) are thre Tynes turned contrarie, so that they catch enerie way, if anye snappings be within their reach. This hooke or Curb is made with ioynts like an Angling rod, and in the day time is coueied into the foyme of a truncheon, and woyme like a walking staffe till night, when it is put to doe other seruice. What-soeuer the Curber with his angle fithes for and takes, the warp beates it away, and he deliuiers it either to a Woker or some balod (for they all are of one feather,) of which Receiuers they haue as present money for it, as if they traded with merchāts. Then is ther (belonging to this facultie) a Diuer, and he is iust in the nature of a Curber, or as the one practises his villany with a hooke, so the Diuer workes his rugling frats by the help of a boy (called a Figger) whome he thrusts in at a casement, being so well studied that he hath the principles of the Black Art, and can pick a locke if it be not to much crossewarded: this Figger deliuiers to the Diuer what snappings he finds in the shop or chamber.

The Prigging Law.

BEing weary with going thus farre on foote, let vs now (sithence we haue ouertaken a hoxleman) get vp and ride along with him. Yet now I looke vpon him well, it is more safetie and better pollicie to let him ride by himselfe, for he rides circuite with the Denill, and Dericke must bee his host, and Tyborne the Jone at which he will light. This ranc-rider is of the family of Knights eccant, or of those wandoyng Rogues that march in the first files of my booke, his name is a Prigger, deriuing his title from his practise, which is called the
Prig-

of London.

Prigging Lawe, whose grounds are the cleanly and cunning stealing of hoxses.

This Prigging Arte runnes into six riuers, all of them falling into one streame, and all of them flowing from one head.

He that steales the hoxse is called the Prigger.

The hoxse is calld a Prancer.

The seller away of the stolne hoxse is a Martar.

The Tolling house is called Alhallowes.

The tiller is the Rider.

The sureties at the toll-booke are called Querries.

A Prigger on foote is called Trayler.

The Prigger if he be a lance-man (that is to say, one that is already hoxst) then rides he in state, attended by followers, who are either like his seruants in liveryes, or in the habit of gentlemen, or most commonly in the shapen of Drovers: in this equipage do they walke vp and downe medowes and pastures or other inclosed grounds, as if their purpose were to buy cattle, whereas their eyes are onely busied in noting hoxses, that are worth the stealing. & whether their hoxses are fettered with hoxse locks or no. The first circle being drawn in the day time, the next night following our Priggers fall to confuting, and by the spells of the Black Art, picke open the Trammelles or locks, and then like Batters or Moles away they flye ouer hedge and ditch out of those quarters. The owners in the morning may smell out their footstepps and see which way they are rid past but vnesse either the Deuill himselte either went with a candle and lantorne before them, the Priggers would neuer be found, or else carried them on his back, and bid them to hold fast by his hornes whilst he gallopped, it were not possible to euer take them, for this policy they vse, if the Prigger steale a hoxse in York-shiere, he sels him in Surrey, Kent or Suffex; and their martars (so called of hunting Morte or Faies) who receiue them at the Priggers hands, chop them away in some blinde faices or other after they haue kept them a moneth or two, til the breath of the Hue and Crie be blowne ouer.

If the hoxse be of any valew and much inquired after, or carry such bandes or eare-marks about him, that they cannot put him off without daunger, then these Priggers band him with a

The Belman

croffe-brand on the former, or take away his care-marke, and so keepe him at hard meate till he be perfectly recovered, or else will they sell him in Cornewal or Wales, if he be fetcht out of Cumberland, Lincolneshire, Norfolk or Suffolke. But if the horse be openly coloured and without Blandes, then haue they shifts to spot them so strangely, that a man shall hardlye knowe his owne horse if he meet him, as to marke a black-horse with saddle-spots, or to star him in the fore-head, and change his tail, the secrets of which are not fit in print to be discovered, least laying open the abuse, I should teach some how to practise it.

This is the life of the Prigger, who travels by and downe the whole kingdome vpon his Gelding of 20. and 40. pound price, and is taken for a man of good worth, by his outward shew, being (amongst his own fraternitie of horse-stealers) called a Prigging-lance-man. But he that borrowes a nag out of another mans pasture, and cares not so he may get money for him, how he puts him away, onely to supplie his wants, is called a Trayler: These Traylers trot vpon the hooft, and are footemen, mean in apparel, though not mean in their theeuing trade: you shall haue them attired like plaine country geanes, walking (like our thred-bare gallants in Poules) in boots without spurs, & sometimes without bootes, long stauers on their necks, and black buckram bags at their backs, as if they were Lawyers Clients, and carried letters by and down: But those buckram bags are the horses wardrobe: In those bags doe these sneaking Traylers put saddle, bridle, spurres, stirrops, and stirrop leathers, all this hackney household stuffe being made so quaintly, that the deepe flop of a horse is able to hide it: so the saddle is fashioned without any tree (yet hath it cantle & bolsters) but artificially quilted together with cloth & búbass, and with such foldes that it may easily bee wrapt vp in a little roome: the stirrops goe with vices and ginnes, that one may put them into a paire of gloues, so likewise doe the spurres, and then a little white leather head-stall and reynes, with a small scottish brake or snaffle, all of them so neatly framed, that a small bag will containe them. And looke how the Lance-man rides post when he sits vpon his prey, so when the Trayler, is in the Saddle, away hee gallops as if euerie Jade of
seven

of London.

seuen nobles price; were a winged Pegasus, selling him as farre off from the place where he stole him, as possibly he can.

Now because these Priggers though they breake the lawe in one point, yet they make it whole in another, and verie orderly come to the Toll-booke, bringing two of their owne religion ciuilly attired (sitting the place) who not onely affirm but offer to depose that they know the horse to be his owne that sels it; yet are these caitses no better then olde knights of the post, that will periure themselves for pots of Ale, and neuer saw perhaps either the Prigger, or the Prancer before: these wicked Elders, hauing for villantes bin banished out of Westminster Hall, or for their periuries stood and lost their eares on the pillorie, retire themselves into the country, and pofesse this kinde of life, being by the horse-stealers called (though they are farre but two; thie of so good a name) Querries: leauing whome (with the horse-men their good Lord and Masters) either to an amendment of manners, or to the mercy of the Hangman, who must teach them to ride his wooden curtal, let vs, because wee are now lifting them out of the saddle, turne ouer a new lease, and reade a lecture in the Lifting law.

The Lifting Law.

The Lifting Law, is not the Law of Porters, wholiue by lifting, & cry to another, lend me your hand, when honestly they are to carrie a barthen for a penny, and safely to deliuer it to the owner backe againe: but this Lawe teacheth a kinde of lifting of goods cleane away. In such liftings are three sorts of Leauers vsed to get vp the baggage. viz:

He that first stealeth the parcell is called The Lift.

He that receiues it is the Marker.

He that stands without and carries it away, is the Santar.

The goods thus purchased, is called Garbage, which Garbage is sometime plate or Jewels, sometimes peeces of velvet, sometimes cloakes or Lawyers gownes, sometimes one thing sometimes another.

The practitioners of this lifting Law, take seuerall degrees; for some of them (& they are the Punices) are but base Rogues,
that

The Belman

that live by lifting quart pots, platters, and such traie out of Drinking houses, under colour of spending two or three Hats of Ale. These are the Rasallitie of this Heerd. But the Gentleman Lifter walkes with his Marker at his heeles, as if he were a Countreie Gentleman of 500. a yeare, and conning into a Mercers or goldsmiths shop, presently casts by his cloake (to colour his intents) the Marker standing bare-headed not farr from him his woorthip then calls for a bolt of Satten, Velvet, cloath of gold or silver; or any of the richest commodities: & not liking the pille colour or black, his eye must have the choise of more, the Marker in meane time whilst the Mercer is busie and turnes his backe, hath the Garbage thrust towards him by the Lifter, and conueies it under his cloake, the Sentar who walkes in the streete, passing then in great haste by the doore, is called backe by the Marker, as if he were such a Gentleman, Knights, or Noble-mans seruant: but the Sentar weares he cannot stay, the Marker tels him he must needs haue one word with him, and so stepping along with him some part of the way, secretly conueies the Garbage to the Sentar.

Other Lifts there are, that haunt Noble-mens houses, at Marriages or solemne Reuelings in Christmas, and the Halls of companies when they make feasts, at which times they lift away Goblets or other pieces of Plate, navery, or any thing worth the ventring for.

Others ply Counsellors Chambers, that are well dyented, and sit downe in the outer roomes like countreie men, hauing blake bores by their sides, and papers in their hand: but their attendance is not for counsell, nor to pay any fees, but to Lift away Colours or Cloakes, by the rules of their owne Law. The like paire of Indentures doe they draw in thops, between Scriveners and themselves.

Another more cunning then all these Liftings, is when in an euening, a Barfowler walkes by and downe the streetes, and counterfeits that he hath let fall a Ring, a Jewell, or a peece of Gold, requesting some Prentice (when there is but one in the shop) to lend him his candle a while to find his losses, who simply doth so but the Lifter poring a good while and not meeting with his ring lets the candle in the end slip out of his fingers, and whilst the prentice steps in to light it againe, the Sentar or
he

of London.

he himselfe steales what garbage they can finger, and are gone in the meane time.

You haue another kinde of Lister, or more properly a cunning night-spiter, and it is thus: You shal haue a fellowe, that is an euening or night time, or sometime at neone daies, as hee likes the company, and sorts his opportunitie, that wil wilfully drop sometime a spoone, other while a ring, or else some peece of coined money, as the likenes of golde and siluer, and so spurning it a dore them in the biew of others, to the end they should crie halfe part, which he taking hold of, saith, nay by my troth, what wilt thou giue me and take it all: and so some greedy foolcs offer thus much, thinking it golde, which the Lister takes, as knowing it counterfeit, and so are they cunny-cought.

Then is there a kinde of Litt; who like a Iugler, doth all his featcs of himselfe, not caring for the helpe of others, hee goes attired like a Seruingman, booted and spurred and dirtie as if he had new ridden: his haunts are the best townes in the countrie vpon market daies, but most commonly faires: the birds he watches for are Knights, esquires, or Gentlemen that light at the greatest Innes, whether moſte reſort is, who shall no ſooner come from horse, but this Lister is ready to hold his stirrop, or to walke his horse as officiouslie as if he wore his cloth: So that to the Guest hee seemes to be one to be belonging to the house, and to the seruants of the house hee appeares to bee a follower of the Gentleman newly alighted. But the guest being departed from his Inne to the town, or into the faire, backe comes this counterfeit Blew coate, running in all hast for his Maisters cloake-bag or portmantua, and calls to the officer or Chamberlaine by his name to deliuer it, because some things must be taken out for his Knight or the Gentleman his Haire-ſce, that are in it. The prey is put (herc upon) into the vulture's tallants, and away flies he presently to his nest, to feed and sat his rauenous gorge with the garbage which he hath gotten.

But what nests thinke you they lye to? marrie to the house either of some notorious trebble-chind haude (in whose beddes commonly these Serpents lie lurking. Who keepe a tipling house, and brings vp young Druggs (vnder the the collour of sil-ling Cans) that are Harlots to the Lists, or else to the shops of certaine brokers, who traffick only in this kind of merchandize:

The Belman

and by bills of sale (made in the name of Robin-goodfellow and his crew) get the goods of honest Citizens into their hands, either detaining them so long in their chests till they be no more sought after, or else so altring them that the Owners shal hardly know them. Thus the Lift and his mates prepare the lime, twigs and catch the bird, but the Bawde and Broker eats the flesh and giue the other onely the feathers.

The High-Law.

At this while haue I read vnto you the beggarly Law, And base common Lawes of Villany, by which the Outlawes of a kingdome, and Out-casts of a well gouerned Common-wealth, maintaine their damnable courses. Now must you cast vp your eyes and looke aloft, if you haue a desire to behold the picture of the High Law: which taketh that name from the high erplopts that are acted by it: the Schollers that learne it are called High Lawyers; yet they neuer walk to Westminster to plead, though oftentimes they are called to the Barre, but then it is to haue them to Hold vp their hands, that the hangman may tell them their fortune. All the former lawes are attained by wit, but the High Law, stands both vpon Wit and Manhood. For the High Law is nothing else but taking a purse by the High-way-side, so that to bee a good practitioner in this Law, a man needes no more but a bold stern look, a good heart, and a good sword: the cases that hee is to pleade vpon, is onely Stand and deliuer. All travellers are so beaten to the trials of this law, that if they haue but rode ouer Shooters Hill, or Salisburie-plaine, they are as perfect in the principles of it, as if they had bene 7. yeares in the company of High Lawyers. The Counsell a High Lawyer giues is comon, but his fees are vnrasonable, for he strips his Clients of all. The motions which he makes are both in Terme and out of Terme; I shall not need therefore to open any of his Cases, But onely will tell you thus much, & this high law is comprehended in fise Volumes, viz.

The thre chat comunits the Robberie, and is theise clarks to Saint Nicholas, is called the High Lawyer.

He that setteth the watch is a Scripper.

He that stands Centinell and does watch, is an Oke.

of London.

He that is robb, is the Martin.

When he yeelbeth, it is called Stooeping.

All the Shires in England haue seene these High law matters tryed, and therefore if any would know them or the professors of them to a haire, let him but step into the Old-baily at any Sessions, and he shall heare moze.

The Sacking Law.

The companion of a Theefe is commonly a Whore; it is not amisse therefore, to pinnecon them together: for what the theefe gets the Strumpet spends. The trade of these Tale-bearers goes vnder the name of the sacking law; and rightly may it be called sacking, for as in the sacking of a City, all the villantes in the world are set abroach, so when a Harlot comes to the sacking of a mans wealth and reputation (for she bestedgeth both together) she leaues no Stratagem vnpractised to bring him to confusion. Westminster and Holborn haue chambers full of these students of the Sacking law. In Clerken well, they had wont and are still well cliented: White Friars is famous for their meeting: The Spittle flourisheth with the yong fute that are put to it to learne it. Sacks come to these Whores euerie houre, but the Sacking-Law empties them faster then a Miller grindes his bushels of corne. He that hath a lust to practise this Law, must bee furnished with these fine bookes. viz.

The Baud, who if she be a woman is called a Pandarresse.

The Apple-squire, who is to fetch in wine.

The Whore who is called the commoditie.

The Whore-house, which is called a Trugging place.

These fine Authors are so wel knowne, and haue bin so turned ouer leafe by leafe, that euerie man (almost) that liues in sight of the smoake of the Cittie, hath them at his fingers ends, or if he cannot, it is an easie matter to finde them by a Table. I will onely referre you to the suburbs. But there is a second part of this Sacking-Law, and that instructs Puncches to attire themselves neatly in summer eueninges, and about ten or eleven of the clocke at night to walke by and downe the mozte peopled Streetes of the City, verie soberly & gingerly, till the wine

The Belman

(by one Gull or other) be offered, which with a little intreaty she takes; but being in the midst of their bowles, or perhaps the silly cony being trayned home to a lodging, where he falls to Niblings; in comes a Russian with a drawn rapier, calls the Puack (as she is) damned whore, asks what Rogue that is, and what he does with his wife? The conclusion of all this counterfeited swaggering being a plot betwixt this panderly Russian and the whore to geld the silly foole of al the money he hath in his purse, and sometimes to make him (rather then his credit should be called into question) to seale a bill or bond for other summes of money at such and such daies, and so send him packing, when he hath paid too deare for a bad dish of meate which he neuer tasted: the base Applesquier and his young mistresse, laughing to see what a woodcocke they pulld, and sharing the feathers betwixt them. But when such comedies (of the Sacking law) as these, are plaide, then the Actors haue other names then are set downe before, and these they be:

The whore is then called the Traffique.

The man that is brought in, is the Simpler.

The Russian that takes him napping is the Crosbiter.

The Figging Law.

The Parliament of these hel-hounds, it seemes will soone breake vp, for they stand now onely vppon the left latwe; which they call Figging Law: in making of which lawe two persons haue the chiefeſt voices, that is to say the Curpurse and he Pickpocket, and all the branches of this law reach to none but them and such as are made free denizens of their incorporation. This Figging Law (like the body of some monstrous and terrible beast) stands vpon ten feete, or rather lifts vppon ten Dragon-like heeds: the names of which heads are these. viz.

He that cuts the purse is called the Nip.

He that is halfe with him is the Snap, or the Cloyer.

The knife is called a Cuttle-bung.

He that pickes the pocket is called a Foist.

He that faceth the man is the Stale.

The taking of the purse is called Drawing.

The

of London.

The spring of this villanie is called Smoking or Boyling.

The purse is the Bung.

The money the Shels.

The act doing is called Striking.

This Figging Law hath more quickes and quiddities in it then any of the former; it is as dangerous to meddle with as the High-Law. in pleading whose cases men are at daggers drawing: the schollers of this Art are cunning Sophisters, and had neede to haue more eies then two in one head, because the Arguments they hold, and their bold villanies which they practise are argued vpon and iustified to his teeth, with whom they contend. The Foyst and the Nip (that is to say the Pocket diuer and the cut purse) are pett fellows together and of one religion, but differ in some points. A purse well lined is the wet Cele they both bob for, but they strue to catch it by the taile after seuerall fashions. For the Nip works with his knife, the Foyst with his hand: the Nip cuts the purse, the Foyst draws the pocket: both their occupations are taught them by the Devil, yet they both brag of the excellencie of them and are ready sometimes to stab one another, about defending which is best for the Foist counts himselfe the better man, and therefore is called (by the livery of his company) a gentleman Foist and so much scornes the title of a cutpurse, that he weares not a knife about him to cut his owne meate, lest he be held in suspicion to be a Nip, which he esteemes the basest office in the whole Army of Cheaters.

These schollers of the Figging lawe, are infinite in number, their Colledge is great, their orders many, and their degrees (which are giuen to them by the Seniors of the house) very ancient but very abhominable.

The language which they speake is none of those which came in at the confusion of Tongues, for neither infidell nor Christian (that is honest) vnderstands it, but the Dialect is such and so crabbid; that seuen yeeres study is little enough to reach to the bottome of it, and to make it run off glib from the tongue: by means of this Gibblish, they know their owne nation when they meete, albeit they neuer saw one another before; and so comfortable are they to the ordinances of the Brotherhoode, that whatsoeuer wicked Elders amongst them shal prescribe,

The Bel-man

Actum est, tis a lawe, and they will not breake it, yea not the proudest of them dare be so bolde as to exercise his Act in any other place but in those that are appointed to him, nor once presume to set his foote into anothers walke, but by licence of the Signiorie.

For that purpose therefore, (as if a whole kingdome were theirs) they allot such countries to this Band of Foills, such towne to those, and such a Cittie to so many Nips; whereupon some of these Boote-halers are called Termers, and they ply Westminster Hal: Michaelmas Terme is their harness, and they sweat in it harder then reapers or hay-makers doe at their works in the heat of summer: no Counsellor, Attourney, Pettifogger nor Solicitor is by earlier then they: nor at the Hall sooner then they: when Clients begin to come crowding in, watermen ply not their fares more numbly then the Nips, & Foills bestir themselves to picke by their shels; the hal and the old pallace are their Hives, and they worke in them like Bees: the Exchequer Chamber, Star-chamber, Kings-bench and Common-pleas and Chancerie are the beds of flowers, to which they flie humming too and fro continually to suck the honey of golde and silver. If a poore Client doe but stand by his Lawyer, whilst hee is pleading, and dialues out his purse to pay his fees for counsellor, or to the Court for dispatch of his business, these furies are sure to be at his elbow, watching (with Walkes eyes) on which side he puts by his purse, to that side they flie, and if their talents can but touch it, it is their owne. Others of them haue all the flesh and fish markets allowed them for their walks, as Cheape-side, East-cheap, the Shambles, both Fishstreets, the Stocks, and the Borough in Southwarke, in which places these faithfull Stewards of Lucifers household, cheapon all commodities, onely to note what money wiuers or seruants that come to buy, haue in their purses, and where they put it by, which being well obserued, the Stall ples his market and followes him; her (whose silver is condemned) till they come to a presse of people: then does the Stall keep a thrusting and a zutling, whilst in the meane time the Foill is either in their pocket, or the Sip hath the purse fast by the strings. Others haunt Ale-houses onely, & the Weare-garden: some haue their precinct lying in the walks of Poules, their

houres

of London.

houres of meeting there being between 10 and 11. the strokes they strike being sometimes in the middle Ile, if it be in Term time, when the walks are full, but most commonly at the doores of the Church, which they will choake, and scree for passage, whilst another does the feat. At running at Tilt, the L. Palace day, any great shooting, any fray, any solenne arraignment, or execution, is better to these Hell-hounds, than a quarter day is to a Landlord, or then five Sessions are to the hangman. Yea so feareles are these Diuels to be throwne headlong & quicke into the pit of damnation, that euen in Gods own house & the sacred Temple (doe they desperately commit their villanies, standing most deuoutly with eyes eleuated vp to heauen, before the preacher, wher the presse of people is thickest, whilst their hands are nibbling in honest mens pockets for their purses, who are careless of such worldly matters there, as not mistrusting that any so bad-minded dare enter into so holy a place. These Nips and Foists goe oftentimes cleauntly away with the shels which they get, but oftentimes are they dogged by certaine fellows (called Cloyers) who hang vpon them like Burres, and are more troublesome then waspes: for no sooner is a Bung drawne, but the Cloyer steps in for his Tenth, which he calls Snappage, if the Nip denie Snappage, the Cloyer forthwith Boyles him, that is betwixt eyes him or sealeth on his cloake.

You must vnderstand likewise, that both of Nips and Foists there are two sorts, for there be Citie Nips and countrie Nips whose office is to haunt nothing but Faires; these countrie nips neuer come into London to doe any peece of seruice, but at Bartholmewide onely. Betwene these two sects is most fallenmitie, for if the Citie Foist spy one of the countrie Foists in London, he forthwith labours and laies waite to smooke or Boyle him, the like does the countrie Nip or Foist by him of the City. There are also women Foists and Nips, as well as men, but farre more dangerous then the men: All the troopes of both sexes being subiect to the discipline of the Grand Nips & foists, and from whome, the better to receiue directions both what to doe, and what quarters to keepe (for they shift their walks according to the pleasure of the chiefe rangers, they haue a certaine house, sometimes at one end of the towne, sometimes at another, which is their hall; at this hall the whole company doe meete

The Bel-man

meete verie orderly: by which meanes whensoever any notable
or workmanlike stroke is stricken, though it were as farre as the
North-borders, yet can the rest of the Fig-blicke: heere resident
in London, tell by whome this worthy Act was plaide.

At this solemn meeting in their Hall, they choose Wardens,
and Steward: the Wardens office is to establiſh wholesome
Lawes to keepe life in their rotten common wealth, and to a-
ſigne out to euery man his Stations. The treasurers office is
verie truely (though he be an arrant theefe) to render an ac-
count of ſuch monies as are put into his hands vpon truſt: for
of euery purse (that is cleanly conueyed and hath good ſtore of
ſhels in it) a ratable portion is deliuered (in Bank as it were)
to the Treasurer, to the intent that when any of them is taken
and caſt into priſon, a Flag of truce may preſently be hung out,
and compoſition offered to the wronged partie, thereby to ſaue
a brother of the ſocietie from riding weſtward. This had wont
to be an order amongſt them: But now the Under keepers of
Newgate, (if complaint bee made to them for the loſſe of any
purſe, ſhane a trick to get a warrant, into which warrant they
put the names of nine or ten of the moſt notozious Foils and
Nips that are free of their Gaole (which they call Whittington
Colledge) and thoſe Nips or Foils doe the Japlozs nip, till the
money perhaps double) be reſtozed, albeit not one of them that
are ſpecified in the warrant were guiltie of the fact: This trick
dooth greatlye impouerish the tradesmen of this miſſerie, and
may in time vtterly ouerthrowe the Students of the Figging
Law.

The ſiue Jumps at Leape-frog.

The whole volume of theſe deteſtable Lawes is now read
ouer to catch a heate therefore after ſo long ſitting, let vs
exerciſe our ſelues awhile at a new play, called the ſiue Jumps
at Leape-frog. The propertie of the game at Leape-frog, is
(as euery prentice and Carter knowes) for one man to ſcoope,
to let another come ouer him, ſo in theſe Jumps the running
Cheaters ſweate only to make a man ſcoope ſo lowe, that they
may break his backe, and then they ride ouer his miſerie with
laughter.

The

of London.

The first Lump is called Horse-courſing, and that is done thus: A fellowe in good cloaths and with an honeſt face to the eye, hires of a carrier an ſtag to ride along with him to Cambridge, Oxford Norwich, or any great towne of trade: but let the iourney be neuer ſo long, this Rider will end it in a fore-noone at moſt, for whiſt the Carrier is buſie about his ſeeme on the way, and looking to his charge, my horſecourſer ſteps aſide into ſome by-lane, and lights at ſome paltrie towne neere the citie where he will lye, till he haue in (capons and wine) eaten by the carriers beaſt aliue; and then departs on foote, ſending the poore man woꝝd where his pancer ſtands at rack and manger, who if he will haue him muſt diſburſe fortye ſhillings or three pound for his Fades dyet. The Hackney-men of Rochefter haue bene oftentimes come ouer with this Lump at Leap-frog and know the game well, for a man cannot name it but they are ready to giue it a curſe.

The ſecond Lump is called carying of ſtones, and that is perſormed in this manner: A crew of ſharking companions (of which there be ſundry conſorts lurking about the ſubburbs of this City) being driuen out of meanes, by leading baſe and idle liues, or elſe by their riotous expences amongſt toboꝝes, prauſe to liue vpon the fee-ſimple of their wits; & hauing amongſt them all ſome little money left (which they call their Shooing-horne) they ſecke out ſome blinde victualing houſe, or Cookes houſe, without the barres, whole Hoſt (if it be poſſible) is either an aſſe eaſie to be ridden, or elſe a common drunkard. In this Colts houſe wil they ſit carolſing halfe cannes day and night, and pay royally at firſt for what they call, that ſhooing-horne of theirs drawing the Hoſt and Hoſteſſe on to beleeue they ſhall be made for euer by theſe gueſts: who to gull the poore Goolecap the better, draw all their acquaintance they can to y^e houſe, neuer either drinking or ſceding, but mine Hoſt muſt ſit at the beꝝds end like a Magnifico in pomp, with his ale-doypt greaſie doublet ſhining by candlelight, as if it were an old ruſtie Armoꝝ ſcruilly ſcowꝝed. But when theſe Horſe-leeches haue ſuckt their guts full, or rather the pittifully complayning Hoſts guts empty, y^e he finds by his ſcores he can truſt no moꝝe, then do they at one time or other talke of ſtate matters, or of religion when the goodman of the houſe can ſcarce ſtand on his legges

The Belman

under his owne rooffe, and trip him in some words, which the next day (being told of it, and the words iustified to his face) he knowes he dares not answer; with which hooke holding his nose to the grindstone, they write their mind in great round Oes of chalke, behinde a doore, which Oes they call Stones: the waight of them being such, that looke how many shillings they make, so many times the wretched Hostesse cries O, as groaning under the burden. Now Sir, of these Oes, twentie shillings make a load, and ten pound make a barge, full: which when they haue well frughted, these Dunkerks hoyst saile and to Sea againe, they goe in another vessell to finde another Brazeleman, y is to say, into another tipling house to finde another Trade whome they may all saddle and get up upon: if their last host follow them with a Bailiffe or a Sergeant: they only hold up a finger, naming a Pursuant and cry Mum, no more mine Host, you twof what, which words are of more power to blow him away, then if you strike him thence with traines of gunpowder. By meanes of this lump, some Victualers haue leaped cleane out of doozes, and with the fall haue bene ready to lye in the streets.

The third lump is called Fawning those that leape at it are Fawne-guests, and that is done in the edge of an euening, when a Cheater meeting a stranger in the darke and taking him for another, gets the stranger by some sleight to a Tauerne, where calling for two pintes of sundry wines, the drabber setting the wines downe with two cups, as the custome is, the Lumper takes of one pinte (no matter which) and finds fault with the wine, saying tis too hard, but rose-water and suger wold send it downe merrily, and for that purpose takes up one of the cups telling the stranger hee is well acquainted with the Boy at the Barre, and can haue two penny worth of Rosewater for a penny of him, and so steps from his seate, the stranger suspecting no harme, because the Fawne-guest leanes his cloak at the end of the table behinde him. But this lump comming to be measured, it is found that he that went to take his rising at the barre, hath stolen ground and out-leaped the other more fete then he can reconer in haste, for the cup is leaped away with him, for which the woodcock that is taken in the sprindge, must pay fifty shillings or three pound, and hath nothing but

of London.

an old thredbare cloake not worth 10 greats to make amends for his losses.

The fourth lump is called Fooletaking, and that is done severall waies, sometimes by setting a couple of subtle rogues to sing ballads on a stall, till a number of people presse about them to buy their trash, and then their purses being discovered, are quickly in the nips fingers. Others are Foole-taken by letting chambers to fellows like servingmen, in the name of such an esquire, or such a knight, or such a captain new come from the lowe countries, bying in a trunck exceeding heavy, and crambd full of brick-bats, which is left in the hired chamber, and five times the value of it lifted away in stead of it. With this lump many maide servants, and their wealthy Masters have bene over-reached by counterfeit kinsmen that have brought a cheese or a gammon of Bacon to the poore wench, claiming kindred of her whether she will or no, and afterwards being (for his cheese and bacon) invited to the Citizens table have in the night time taken away plate, or other commodities in exchange of his white-meats.

The fifth lump is called Spooone-meat, and that is a messe of knauerie served in about Supper time in the edge of an evening likewise, It is done thus: A silly fellowe in shew, attired like a clowne, spurnes (being neere some candle that stands on a stall) a paper before him, in which is wrapt by a spooone, taking by which and looking on it by the light, and making it knowne (by his loud talking and wrōding what he hath found) that he tooke it by by chance, people flock about him, and imagine it is a siluer and gilt spooone, for it looks very faire, but he seeming to be an innocent corcombe, knowes not he saies, what he should do with such a gew-gaue: whereupon everie one is catching at it, and offers him money for it, he wishes he had rather found money then such a babb, for he eates not his pottage in plate; in the end, some for amongst all the Cubbes that stand about him, whispers in his eare, to haue it from all the rest and thrusts a crowne priuily into his hand. The Lumper takes it, and sneakes away, the other gets home as fast as he can, longing till he call his wife, all his household and neighbors about him, to shewe what a pent

The Belman

worth hee met with, but the guilt spoone coming to be tried of what metfall he is made, the poore mans money proues copper, and he himselfe is laughed at for a Cor-
combe.

How long shall I saile vppon these godlesse waters? Is it not time to get a shore? Is it not fit that I should now sound a retreat and not wearie my pen in the execution of such base and barbarous minded Caitiffes? What a battaile haue I vnder-
dertaken? and with what an ignoble enimie? to contend with whom, is an act inglorious, and to conquer whome (but that they are open and professed foes to the Republick, to honesty, to ciuilitie, and to all humanitie) were as much dishonour as by them to be ouercome. Who would imagine that a Kingdome so fertill in all sorts of wholesome discipline, there should growe by such rancor and such pestilent beds of hemlocke? that in the very heart of a state so rarely gouerned and directed by good lawes, there should breed such loathsome and such ulcerous impostumes? that in a Citie so politicke, so ciuill, and so seuerer, such bge, base and bold impieties dare shew their faces? What an Army of insufferable Abuses, detestable Vices, most dam-
nable Vilanies, abhominable Pollutions, inerplicable mischeifs, fordid iniquinations, horrible and Hel-hound-like-perpetrated flagitious enozimities haue bene heere mustred together? vnder what deuillish commanders are they conducted? what colors of damnation do they fight vnder, what dismal Ensigne doe they spee? what forces do they bring into the field? how full of courage they are? how full of cunning? how politick are the Ringleaders of these Faries? how resolute are all the troops? what strange armor haue they (of subtiltie, & desperate boldnes) to encounter and set vppon their opposites? what Artillery haue they to batter downe, Order, Law, Custome, plaine dealing, and all the good guards and defences of Gouernement? What remaineth therefore (in an assault so dangerous to a Common wealth, and so hotly and daily prosecuted) but that Justice her selfe must come into the field, leading with her all her forces? What the Triple Body of the State may knit all their Nerves together and sit in Counsell, setting down stratagems and lawes how to race for cuer (out of so noble a Kingdome)
such

of London.

rich Rebels to the peace and honour of it? That the Reuerend
Judges may out of a detestation of the liues of these monsters,
lock vp their eyes and eares from pittie, when any of these Sa-
uages are caught and brought befoze them: That all inferioz
ministers of Justice, may be vigilant, faithfull and seuerie in
haunting them into Gaoles, that are the fittest toyles for them
to fall into, and that the hangman may not lye lazing and com-
plaine for want of worke, so many infected bodies being to be
found in euerie corner of the Land, whom no medicine can
cure, but the phisicke which hee bestowes vpon him at
the Gallows: Where I leaue them, as to the ha-
uen in which they must all cast Anchoz, if De-
ricks Cables do but hold and vnlesse they
amend. Give thanks to the Bel-
man of London, if either
profit or pleasure be gai-
ned by this Disco-
uerie.

F 3

Operis





Operis Peroratio.

A short Discourse of Canting, which is the Language spoken by all the Ragged Regiment, that serue vnder the collours of the

Belman.

THus hath our Belman (like a faithfull & watchfull Centinell) walkt his reund: An armie of a mosse strange people hath hee mustred together: In their true collours of villany hath hee draun these Free-booters: their habits, their behaviours and their properties, are to the life discovered: yet all this is but a dumb picture. It shall not be amisse therefore if I giue speech vnto it by lending it a tongue. In doing which you may perceiue how politticke a Common-wealth these Dut-lawes of the Kingdome maintaine among themselves, in deuising not onely strange and subtile Stratagems to vphold them in a base and idle licentious kinde of life, but also in inuening a language which none vnderstand but those that are Students in their damnable arte, the better to couer their villanies, when they (in their talke) practise to set them abroach.

My purpose notwithstanding in this is not to bestow vppon you so liberall and full a discourse, as this matter doth require, but only at this time to giue you a taste of that which in a second part of this booke shal (God willing) be more amply discovered. In which second part, our Well man of London shal bring to light a number of more notable enormities (daylye hatched in this Realme) then euer haue yet bin published to the open eye of the world. These are smal spots, the other are the great blimishes, or rather the Vlceroous sores that make the bodie of kingdome appeare vgly and deformed. A larger nette shal then bee spread, and more dangerous serpents shal fall into the snare, to the intent that their stings may be pulled out, and all their poison in y be drawne from them, to make those that as yet know not how infectious they are, be afraide to approach

The Belman of London.

be in sight of such deuouring Monsters. But because I wil not haue them borne before their time (being yet but in the shell) least by that meanes they miscarrie in their brood, and so you should be deceiued in your expectation: let vs in the meane time stand with attentive eares, and listen to an Vp-right-man, to whom I espie ready to encounter with a Wilde-Rogue. And this is their Dialogue.

A short Dialogue betweene an Vp-right-man and a Rogue in the Canting-language.

The Upright Cofe Canteth to the Rogue.

1 *Vpr.* **B**ene lightmans to thy quarrones: in what lipken hast thou lipped in this darkmans? whether in a libbege, or in the Strummell?

2 *Rog.* I couched a Hoghead in a Skipper this darkmans.

3 *Vpr.* I towre the strummell tryne vpon the nabchett and togman.

4 *Rog.* I say by the Salomon I will lage it off with a gage of bene bowfe: then cut to my nose watch.

5 *Vpr.* Why? hast thou any lowre in thy bung to bowfe?

6 *Rog.* But a flag, a win, and a make.

7 *Vpr.* Where is the ken that hath the bene bowfe?

8 *Rog.* A bene Mort, hereby at the signe of the praucer.

9 *Vpr.* I cut, it is quire bowfe, I bowd a flag the last darkmans.

10 *Rog.* But bowfether a bord & thou shalt haue benchip; towreyce, yonder is the ken, dup the Giger, and mawnd that is benchip.

11 *Vpr.* This bowfe is as good as Rome bowfe: now I towre that bene bowfe makes nase nabs, mawnd of this Mort, what bene pecke is in her ken?

12 *Rog.* She hath a cackling chefe, a grunting chefe, ruffe, peck, Cassan; and poplars of yarum.

13 *Vpr.* That is benchip to our watch; now wee haue well bowd, let vs strike some chete; yonder dwelleth a quire cussen, it were benchip to mill him. (by.

14 *Rog.* Nay, bing we a wast to the hye pad, the ruffmans is

15 *Vpr.* So may wee happen on the Haymans, and cly the Jarke, or to the quire ken, and scowre quire crampinges, and soto tryimming on the chetes.

16 *Rog.* The Ruffian cly thee, farwell and betrinde.

This

The Belman of London.

This is their phrase, this the Rhetorick of our English Rogues and this (vpon aduice or occasion) they barrie, putting out some words, & in their stead inuenting others more new. This was none of the language that was spoken at the confusion of tongues, but this is a mere confusion in it selfe. And because you haue no Dictionaries to giue you the English of these wordes, you shall haue the selfe same companions speake the same Dialogue in their owne naturall language.

The Vpright-man speaketh to the Rogue.

- 1 Vpr. **C**od morrow to thy body, in what house hast thou lye[n] all night: in a bed or in the straw?
 - 2 Rog. I slept in a barne this night?
 - 3 Vpr. I see the straw hang vpon thy cap and coate.
 - 4 Rog. I sweare by the Masse I will wash it off with a quart of good drinke, and then talke to me what thou wilt.
 - 5 Vpr. Why? hast thou any money in thy purse?
 - 6 Rog. But a groate, a penny, and a halfe penny.
 - 7 Vpr. Where is the house that has the good drinke?
 - 8 Rog. 'Tis a good wench hereby at the signe of the bozie.
 - 9 Vpr. I say tis small and scurvie drinke, I drunke a groate heere last night.
 - 10 Rog. But drinke there a shilling and thou shalt haue verie good, see, yonder is the house, open the doze and call for the best.
 - 11 Vpr. This drinke is as good as wine, now I see that good drinke makes a drunken head: aske of this wench what meate she hath in the house?
 - 12 Rog. She hath a Hen, a Pig, bacon, cheese, and milke-pottage.
 - 13 Vpr. Thats verie good for vs, now we haue drunke, lets scale somewhat: yonder dwels a churlish cozmozant, twere a good deede to rob him.
 - 14 Rog. So we may chance to sit in the stocks, and be either whipped, or had to prison, and there be shackled with bolts and Fetters, and then to be hanged on the gallowes.
 - 15 Vpr. The deuill take thee, farwell and be hang'd.
- Epope of this Canting, with other matters of more worthe note shall be handled by our Belman at his second walking by and downe the Cittie.

FINIS

